

The correspondence of michael faraday, volume 5 november 1855- october 1860

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Abstrak

Michael Faraday (1791?1867) was one of the most important men of science in nineteenth century Britain. His discoveries of electro-magnetic rotations (1821) and electro-magnetic induction (1831) laid the foundations of the modern electrical industry. His discovery of the magneto-optical effect and diamagnetism (1845) led him to formulate the field theory of electro-magnetism, which forms one of the cornerstones of modern physics.

These and a whole host of other fundamental discoveries in physics and chemistry, together with his lecturing at the Royal Institution, his work for the state (including Trinity House), his religious beliefs and his lack of mathematical ability, make Faraday one of the most fascinating scientific figures ever.

All these aspects of his life and work and others, such as his illnesses, are reflected in his correspondence. This volume, in which just over 70 per cent of the 841 letters are previously unpublished, covers the latter half of the 1850s and most of 1860.

Topics include: Faraday's work on regelation, the transmission of light through gold and his attempts to bring gravity into his general scheme of forces; the offer by Queen Victoria - and Faraday's acceptance - of a 'grace and favour' house at Hampton Court; his advice to Trinity House, the Board of Trade and the Royal Commission on lighthouses; his investigation of the deterioration of the stonework of the relatively new Houses of Parliament; the conservation issues surrounding the National Gallery's pictures; and his appointment by Emperor Napoleon III to be a Commander of the Legion of Honour.