

Mary Somerville

AL/2313

Genoa 5th Feby 1852

Dear Colonel Lykes

I cannot resist applying to you on the present occasion knowing the interest you take in the success of the Zoological Establishment in the Regents Park -

The King of Sardinia has given his menagerie to the directors of the Museum at Turin, but as they have no place to keep the animals in, they have sold all except a magnificent Elephant, the largest in Europe, and it they intend to kill, not for the skin for they have good specimens already, but merely to save the expence of its food - I am so grieved that this fine creature should be destroyed for no purpose that I ^{am} induced ~~me~~ to hope that it might be an acquisition either to the Regents Park or Surrey Collections the more so as it may be had at a small price &

and the expense of transport would not be
much for it is an easy days journey from
Turin to Genoa the railroad being finished for
more than half the way, and here it could be
shipped for England -

I should be glad to hear that Mrs Syles
is well and desire to be kindly remembered to
her - The Company's Army has been so distinguished
at all times but especially within the last few
years that your sons have chosen a very
brilliant profession and I trust you have
had good accounts of them - We are still
at Genoa and find it a very agreeable residence
besides we have the pleasure of seeing many
of our friends in their way to the South of Italy
and we should receive none with greater
pleasure than Mrs Syles and you should
you come this way - Mr Somerville joins with
me in very kind regards to her and to you

Yours sincerely
Mary Somerville

Mrs Mary Caswell
Dec 10/27
and 12/27