My Dear Violet,

Ma sends some crocuses to make two pots full. The 6 at one end are yellow, the other six white. They will grow in any soil, road scrapings will do-- & you can let the sprouted part be above the ground. You must get some proper soil for your lily from some gardener. It will cost more to send it & more trouble than it is worth. It will want a rather large pot, and as it will not flower til late in the Autumn & will want careful watering all that time, it is hardly likely to come to [[2]] perfection. I will see if I can send you the snakes &c. in a few days.

It will be very valuable to you to pass the final exam. & get the final certificate, but do you think 6 weeks will be enough to do it? I should think you must pay a substitute at the K.G. what you get yourself-at least. I will pay your board &c. & fees at Madames for the 6 weeks. Perhaps Miss Macdonald would be your substitute if she has nothing by that time.

If Miss King has a garden, and a gardener, you could get [[3]] some soil & a pot for your lily there-- & instructions. I never grew lilies in pots.

An ordinary glass prism would not cost more than a shilling or two I should think. A good large reading glass 3/ or 4/ you can ascertain at any opticians.
I have not got the book of the 100 men. It is called Portraits & Autographs price 1/6, I will get it & you had better get one at Liverpool. We still have frost every night, & no water yet.

Your affectionate Pa | Alfred R. Wallace [signature]

[[ 4 ]] P.S. you can chop up the moss & lay it on the surface of your crocus pots & at first only keep the moss moist. ¹ not much water til green leaves appear, then more.

ENDNOTES

1. Written vertically up the left margin of page 1.

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