September 20th, 1911

Dear Bertie,

I am awfully sorry to have kept the proofs in this unconscionable way. Every day I thought that I could get a little time. But this wretched astronomy (interesting enough in itself) has taken all my time – including the ‘reducing’ of the observation, so that I have never been fresh enough to follow the reasoning. This relation-arithmetic is too complicated to be corrected by eye, and wants a fresh brain to manage the reasoning.

As usual the notation (eg *182) struck me as beautiful. You have surpassed yourself – I am here till Friday (inclusive), then on Saturday go to Lockeridge, and on Monday return to Carlyle Square. Please send me Broad’s dissertation, I shall like to tackle it.

There has been no time to put anything on paper about Time and Space.

Besides some necessary MSS are in Town. The thing to do is to have a section on Point-Formation, starting with a number on the class of relations [Rel(pt) – really ‘whole and part’ relations] from which the characteristic relations of points to objects can be derived.

Then apply the theory in subsequent numbers to Time and Space. As far as I can recollect the props of the MS in London, we must have

Then from the fundamental relations which to give the Time-order incl. are to Space-order we cook up relations which belong to Rel(pt) – anyhow the are such as to make them belong to Rel(pt).

The entities forming the fields of the time and Space relations are the same and have extension both in time and in space. The definition of simultaneity is to have space-relations. Of course secondary space relations between non-simultaneous objects can be cooked up later. Also time-relations directly only hold between parts of the same object [e.g. parts of me]. Secondary time relations between you and me arise via simultaneity. The essential reason why time cannot is that objects are different, e.g. the part of me during 1900 is different from the part of me during 1910, and this difference is unaltered by any simultaneity of circumstances.

Note that language in a way sanctions this view. It talks of ‘my life’ during 1900 and ‘my life’ during 1910. But there is not one thing ‘my life’ and another thing ‘me’. Thus my life during 1900 is an object which is part of the complete ‘me’.

Yours affectionately,

A.N.W.