Is it very bad of me not to have replied sooner? You only asked about next year, so I reflected that the longer the delay, the more I should know about the Ecole d’Anthropologie. I have never had time – you have no idea of how many irons I have in the fire here – to make the personal acquaintance of Retourneau or any other of them yet, but I shall not fail to do so & to get all I can for you. I shall of course be able to give you a few really interesting introductions – both geological & other.

You are certainly right I think in proposing to come here: the society is fairly installed in the top floor of the Musee Depuytren an old church but now the Anat & Pathol. Museum of the Ecole de Medecine, which surrounds it for a couple of acres of huge buildings.

There is really her an extraordinary wealth of varied interests – with all its faults. e.g. woeful xx the chaos & anarchy among the different teachers, subjects &c, this is still far the vastest of universities. Imagine that in the sole subject of history alone, there are at least 50 courses to choose among! Of course you will miss the sympathetic common life of British science by comparison at least – but you will find the individuals usually very helpful & hospitable, although they are rather tired of foreigners as well they may be! You need not make up your mind for complete isolation Geddes to haddon Dec 11 [1889], Haddon Papers, Folder 3, Cambridge University Library © Cambridge University Library

why not come over en famille, and live here just as you do in London. This is on the whole a much nicer place! Perhaps we shall be here next winter again Who knows. There are many possibilities in fact. I am busy working up new developments, & with one or two of the Univ. Reformers (who happen luckily just now to be in power) have been discussing them, but it is still too soon to speak of this, which might not indeed great interest you besides, at least in [indecipherable] states of thinking out. I am very glad indeed that you are going in to Anthropology, but I am sure it is your human sympathy & power of interpretation which is leading you, & not your mere desire of measuring xx skulls. It is very interesting to xx how this society, which was when I went to its lectures ten years ago, as wooden & as could be, has become essentially human. The lectures are far better – & are not ashamed of being so. So You will get beyond Turner’s & Flower’s the study notion of anthropology just as you have in fact & practice. In a word the skull measuring business if and when done, is now done by the “Germans”, so to speak – I mean the hewers of wood and drawers of water. while of the xxx professor, every one I have yet heard more of less has risen from the ostatic anatomical standpoint to the physiological & dynamic one, & from the xxx individual study of the man as the unit xxx to the standpoint of Comp. psychology sociology. Altogether xxx a great scientific movement is beginning in France, & more every year as the men whose characters were disciplined by the disasters of 70-71 come to the front, & get in their hand. The sweetnesses of adversity are clear & manifest. I am alone just no, as my wife had to go home on account of her father’s illness – which has xxx fatally. She will soon be back however. With kindest regards everyone P.G.