

April 20 (51) Dear Bromley Kent

My dear Gray. - Thanks for two notes, one
about the Duke of A. (L.D. I tell you how
capitally this was criticized in the Saturday
Review?) & the other note my savage
against England: I can't help fearing that
we shall drift into war: what a mess it
will be to us anyhow; for you seem to be
getting to like war. - I wish I had known
when I read the Correspondence that Mr. Forster
was your father-in-law: I sh^d. have read it, if
possible, with still greater interest. We must
keep to science, I fear, for we both seem
to be getting to think each other's country
conduct worse & worse. But I sh^d. like to know
whether General Butler is in your honest
opinion a bad man. -
Your remark for Wyman about the Inca comes

very appropriately for I am at present running
up the fact in this subject & give
facts on both sides. - I now regret that
I have always intentionally evaded each of
them; but have put in a note
on each fact as I have heard of. -
I sent off two days ago two copies of
my Lincoln paper: I hope to call very
interest you; it has Mr. Dickinson's
turns out with me only variability
in length of birth. - I forgot to
ask about Intermarriage; ^{Mr. DeVay} ~~Dr. DeVay~~ says
explicitly the state of Ohio, for ^{statistical} ~~statistical~~
reasons, has legislated against coarsening
marrying: can there be then?
Here is another heterosperm question: how
far are you from any theory, why in White

of horses (I have been reading your most clear
account in your Lifelines) the angles go $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3}$
 $\frac{3}{8}$ &c - Why should there not be $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$? It
seems to me most marvellous. - Then must
be some explanation. If you have theory, I
know it will be too long to explain; but
I'd like to hear whether you have. If
good friend Felsen has been twitting
me the three angles ^{are} as fixed a
law as the ^{of} gravity & never vary.
I can fairly see the packing ^{of organs} in my
rat, but my cause ^{alternations} ~~alternations~~ ^{attention} ~~attention~~
in the ^{parts of the} ~~parts of the~~ flower & consequent ^{interruption} ~~interruption~~
in two species. Speaking of Felsen, I was
very sorry to see his letter in the
Attention: so innocent & virulent.
We have had lately sharp flouting in
the Attention. Did you see the article on

Heterogony a spontaneous generation, written
I believe, certainly by Owen!! it was
in Review on Carpenter, who seems to
have been willing to say it Owen calling
me Carpenter's master: it was like his
dear indignity. Under the cloak of
a fling at Heterogony I have sent a
letter to attention in defence of
myself, & I take my chance to
quote Heller amended verdict on the
origin. - I suppose my letter will
appear next week: it is in great
things. - Be sure if you have

opportunity read Bates' Amegonia,
because you will like & admire
it - -

I have got to say a few words on Athletics,

I hope that you may have time to look at the *Postellum* of
Gymnadenia, this summer; because a good observer in
Bd. Garden at Edinburgh, ^{a Mr. Scott} has been experimenting on
foreign ^{genera} ~~species~~, & he finds that the *Postellum* stimulates
some kinds to protrude their tubes; but that those
tubes never penetrate the *Postellum* of creep along
its surface to the stigma. He wrote to me to know
whether I could give him any details on your
observations. By the way I lately found ^{some} ~~a~~ *fruticosa*
with 3 pistils, but united, so that I could peep
into the ovarium: I put in pollen & afterwards
found the tubes exserted & attached to & apparently
penetrating the ovaries; but never of the microscope!
I have now no doubt that you are perfectly right
about fertilisation of *Cypripedium*: a friend lent me
a plant of *C. pubescens*. I put extremely minute
Bee (an *Andrena*) into the Labellum & covered
it with web paper; but this precaution I
afterwards found superfluous, for the ^{all round} edges of the
orifice of labellum are
~~opening~~ ^{folded} over (just like insect traps for
Linn. Kitchener) so that the Bee could not climb
out. — Well the bee immediately crawled out & was

of the windows opposite the anthers, with his back
towards the anther, against which he ^{firmly} pressed it,
owing to the elastic work opposite the anther.
It was pretty to see under lens how the whole
thorax & base of wings was smeared with pollen.

I put him back into the labellum five
times & five times I saw his back smeared.

As you know he must pass under the stigma
(with its spines directed towards the apex as you
describe) for then is another perfect & as

I expected when I cut open the flower I
found the stigma ^{well} smeared with pollen -
It was beautiful. - Good night

My dear Greg

Ever yours cordially

Thompson an Englishman

(Charles Darwin)



Darwin, Charles. 1863. "Darwin, Charles Apr. 25, 1863." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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