

with its own pollen. I have also
ascertained that plants raised
from Dimorphic species fertilized
by their own pollen, are themselves
generally sterile, & are often dwarfs,
so that they offer the closest analogy
with Hybrids; the first crop & the
product both being more or less sterile;
this seems to me a very curious fact.

I do not know when I shall be able
to publish any of these results, for I
have resolved, whenever able to do
any thing, to publish my next book.

I have not heard very lately from
Hooker, who I believe returns tomorrow
to Kew. His illness has been very serious.
To me the loss of his correspondence
has been very great.

My wife has read aloud to me Stephens',
2 books on Central America. What a
remarkably pleasant writer he is! & how
singularly deficient in the spirit of a
naturalist. Who is he & is he still alive

we liked his books
Extremely.
with cabal
thanks for
all you
kindly
you are
enough to
stimulate a
dead man to
write. your
affl.
John.
Stamley.
Kent. S. C.
Oct. 19th
C. Darwin
blank

I received yesterday your article
on Climbers & it has pleased
me in an extraordinary &
very silly manner. You pay me
a superb compliment, & as I
have just said to my wife
I think my friends must
pensive that I like friends, they
give me such hearty doses.
I always admire your skill
in reviews or abstracts, &
you have done this article

Excellent & given to the whole
of my paper. - I have
you an apt about the
climbing roses; I have thought
about spring shoots behaving
differently from others. I have
had a letter from a good
garden in S. Brazil, F.
Müller, who has been kind
enough to draw climbing &
give me some curious cases
of Branch-climbers, in
which branches are converted
into tendrils, & then
continue to grow & throw
out leaves & new branches
& then lose their tendril

character.

I am certainly better & have
not vomited for above 5 weeks.
This is certainly due to not
having eaten any thing but
toast & meat for the last 2 months.
But I cannot recover mental
strength & I do no regular work.
I have had some flowers crossed
for me this summer & have lately
been counting seeds.

You might like to hear that
Mitchella behaves exactly like the
Cowslip. Did I ever tell you that a
year or two ago I ascertained that
Pulmonaria offers a curious case,
the long-styled form being absolutely
sterile with its own pollen, whilst
the short-styled is almost perfectly



Darwin, Charles. 1865. "Darwin, Charles Oct. 19, 1865." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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