

I am now trying to make out  
the use or function of  
"bloom" at the waxy secretion  
on the leaves & joints of  
plants, but am ~~very~~  
doubtful whether I shall  
succeed. - Can you give  
me any light? The cork  
plants ~~commoner~~ in warm  
than in colder  
climates? I ask because  
I often walk out in  
heavy rain & <sup>the leaves of</sup> few wild  
dicotyledons can be seen  
seen with drops of water

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June 4<sup>th</sup> 1877?

DOWN,  
BECKENHAM, KENT.  
RAILWAY STATION  
ORPINGTON, S.E.R.

My dear Gray

Prof. Bessy's case has come too  
late for me, as to shoot on this  
subject or pointed off. Now indeed  
if it had come earlier, I should  
I have known what to do with  
it. The pollen-grains & stigmas  
ought to be compared. The case  
seems to be well worth <sup>careful</sup> <sup>here</sup>  
investigation & I <sup>am</sup> <sup>now</sup> giving  
my eyes for seeds formerly; but  
now I have some with the subject.  
If Prof. Bessy likes & permitted  
with he might raise seedlings  
& ~~perhaps~~ fertile shoot & long ~~stamens~~  
petals



with pollen from long & short  
its means for distinct plants  
& on the same plant:  
containing the proportion of  
flowers which set fruit,  
when fertilized in the  
various ways & the number  
of seeds per fruit. This  
Diagram shows the relation  
between the flowers  
& <sup>the</sup> inflorescence  
as alluded to. I will send him  
my book, when published in  
14 or 5 weeks, & if he thinks

it worth reading he can see  
how to apply it to the  
plants. — The case may be  
one merely of great variability,  
but ~~as~~ it may be one  
of incipient heterostyly which  
under this point of view  
I would formerly (if I could)  
have investigated it  
most carefully. —

When you receive my little  
book, you will see that  
I have done an anxious  
search with respect to  
you. —



Mar 119

Telling off them like quills.

When in a flower garden,  
glutted & hot-brained then  
am scolded. Again am

blow-pottered plants common

on <sup>the</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>dry</sup> <sup>Western</sup> <sup>plain;</sup>  
[Sir Joseph Hooker] thinks that it is  
common at a C. of good

Hope. It is a puzzle to

me if it is common  
under my dry climate, &

I find bloom very common

as to Acacias & Eucalypti

of Australia. Some of the

Eucalypti which do not



appear to be covered  
with bloom. has the epidermis  
protected by a layer of  
some substance which  
is dissolved in boiling  
alcohol. - Are there any  
bloom-protective leaves on  
fruit in the Arctic  
regions? - If you can illuminate  
me, as you so often have  
done, pray do so; but  
otherwise do not bother  
yourself & answering  
your affections  
C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1877. "Darwin, Charles June 4, 1877." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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