

5/a Gray
me in to you in a most unnecessary way. —
I am so glad that you will look to some of your
Rubiacea, & I hope this may find time to make
a few experiments — Thanks for notes about your Hollies,
& I hope you will look a little to them. There is to
me incomparably more interest in observing than in
writing; but I feel quite guilty in trespassing on
your subjects, & not sticking to varieties of the com-
mon fowls, Hens & Ducks. — I hear the Flock is
savage to me. — I shall never resist Linnaeus
next summer. — What you say about our keeping
is out of instructions & firing long shots about
Design has made me laugh. — I suspect I am
more cowardly than you, as I ought to be, as
I do not feel sure of my ground. — Here is my
answering long shot about the cleaning - notes:
I should believe it to have been designed (as I did
formerly eat part of each animal) until I saw
a way of its being formed without design, & at the
same time saw in its whole structure (as in
humans, elephants, & many organs, distribution &c.)
evidence, of its having been produced in a quite
distinct manner, i.e. desert for another cleaning

Whose ^{51a Gray} notes subscribed, perhaps, some quite distinct ones, (6
When I think of my beloved orchids, with numbers
of ³ five ~~to~~ cutters, with one pistil converted into
a stamens, with all the cohesion of parts, it really
seems to me incredibly monstrous to look at an
orchid as created as we now see it. Every part
needs modification or modification. But enough &
more than enough. - Farewell, my dear Gray, with
cordial thanks for your never ending kindness -
Yours most sincerely C. Darwin
Of course I will send you my orchid opusculum. -



Darwin, Charles. 1855. "Darwin, Charles undated fragment [1861]." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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