

idea of Nat. Selection. - I own I have a horror
of universal remedies - one nostrum for every
case. The line I took in my letters to him
was - to drive back, in supportum, his
providential: - & then, to set N.S. a going &
suppose a progress from the protozoic world
onwards. I think it will then be impossible
to conceive a "struggle for life" & so on, operating
as his theory requires - & that, let them ask
how they would, the variations, by descent
from external ^{Natural} agencies, would only have
produced an indefinitely varied protozoic
world. - Hence, I argued that "Variability
from Unknown Cause" & "Correlation" must
be assumed as acting, before a step further
could be made, above protozoa; - & that,
throughout creation, every successive step
in structure, must be referred to similar
Agency: - Hence, ~~there~~ I endeavoured to dis-
tinguish between Variations from outward
conditions of life - ~~there being~~ under the fair
theory of Nat. Selection or Derivative Descent;
- & Variations & Correlation from Unknown
Cause, which, being unexplained & so far as we
know, inexplicable, I referred to the Creator.
He would not however grant me more
than one source of every variation -
namely - outward conditions of life -
& that. I will not, at present, grant, or
until I see ~~one~~ ^{one} pattern of variation for
one purpose - throughout nature. As it is, I see
the same thing constantly done in two opposite ways,

Trin. Coll. Dublin
3^d Nov^r 1860

J. H. Gray.

I am a sad fellow - & no me-
lancholy, not to have written to you long
before this, when I know that I
owe you at least one letter, & I fear
two - and besides, when I owe you
for your four Darwin papers -
all of which (except the last of
the Sillemans, the Dialogue) I have
read with great pleasure & profit.
When your first - funny paper in
the Ath. Monthly came - I did not think
it could be yours - it was so good! What
will Madame say to this left handed
compliment! But truth is truth, I really
thought it was the flashing of A.W. Holmes,
our pen, on your subject - pruned by
Gray, said I, but the flash of Holmes
rifle. I am sorry to say I have lost
or mislaid this one. I sent it to my father
to enlighten him, & he returned it while
I was at vacation, & it fell into Todden-
trot's hands, who has a fancy for hiding
papers so snugly that they are "as good
as lost" - They become fossilized before
they come to light again. - Now for you

two last papers - in Augt & October - I have
them safely & have read them twice - & quoted
one of them in my opening speech at our
College association. "Almost thou persuaded
me to be a Darwinite" - not quite so, but
thou persuaded me to be a Graugite.
I have no objection, per se, to a doctrine
of derivative descent - why should I? or
why should any man? One mode of crea-
tion is as feasible to the Almighty as ano-
ther, & as put by you, such a scheme
is very consonant to sound doctrine.
But - I still think that, as put by Darwin,
a very different sort of grape may be gar-
thered from the thistle. He certainly has a
proclivity - as you say - to the positivism
of the day - or he would not have been
so reticent as he is. But, we who have
no proclivity - may read his mystery
in our own way - & so read, we can
accept much of his book as an expla-
nation of natural evolution. I have had
a short, friendly, correspondence with
him on the subject, - not with much result,
one way or other. But this I confess, - since
I have read the whole book, which I had not
done when I fired off my squib, - I confess
to a gradual change of views. His latter
chapters, which to many are less convincing
than his first onslaught, are those which
have most impressed me - & particularly
that on geogr. distribution, & the geological

geogr. distribution, succeeding through ages.
Certainly there are many broad facts which
can be read by a supposition of descent
with variation. How broad those facts are,
& how broad the limits of "descent with varia-
tion" maybe, are questions which I do not think
his theory affords answers to. It opens vistas
backward through time - it evidently points
whence light may come, by which to see the
objects in the vistas - but to my mind, it
does no more. When he passes this true
inductive inference, & proceeds to build
further inductions on it - & to force all
things "ruthlessly" (as you say) to converge on
one point - then I draw back - thinking with
Hume - that there may be many things in
the scheme of creation which are not explained
(though they may be "dreamt of" in our philo-
sophy. A good deal of Darwin reads to me
like an ingenious dream - & some of it
reads like bosh - e.g. the whole passage
explaining why plants on islands become trees -
and sundry such explanations, here & there,
that I can hardly call other than whimsical
if not childish. These passages I know ought
not to be dwelt on, where there is so much
that is otherwise so much that is admirable
- but it is difficult not to dwell on them,
where they so continually rise on one's stomach.
He seems to be unable to look at any
thing, ~~where~~ that cannot at once be
solved by his single solvent - the one

stand. Long may you stand on your legs, & hold on by your toes. - I shall try & do the same - but, notwithstanding the hubbub of opposition, I think Darwinism is likely to be fashionable with the next generation - & until some clearer mind has pointed out where the Truth lies. I do not think Darwinism either the Truth, or an approximation to the True - but merely the plausible foreshadowing - something like what, in higher things, Confucianism is to Christianity. And so there let it be. Amen.

How did I pass my summer? - First I went to Killarney, to show it to a friend from Australia - then to Glassy, to eat gooseberries & read Darwin - & thence to Kew, where I finished the vacation. Some time in the summer I sent you through Trubner & Co, the 1st Vol. of *Flora Capensis* - which I hope you have received - & I received from you Chapman's *Flora*, for which I am much obliged. Would C. Wright care for a copy of *Fl. Cap.*? - I think he deserves one, & (as it does not cost much) I will send one, if you say so. The price is only 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (3 Doll.) - too cheap -

It ought to have been 16/ at least. Very few copies sell here - but it will sell at the Cape - a disagreeable way of selling, for the money comes in very slowly - if at all. The Govt. grant does not quite cover the expenses. Each Vol. costs £50 above the allowance, to be met by sale. - About half the 2^d Vol. is printed - all Leguminosae, of which there are about 1000. No more ready. I am now working on *Roraceae*. *Cliffortia* is no exception to the bad character of *Roraceae* species - They run into one another like brambles. You won't hardly think so till you come to examine them closely. Phyc. Aust. goes on, & has reached its 33 number - 17 more will complete it - & then I shall say Oh. begone! - I must make the rest of this sheet to your good wife - or I shall have no room to put in a word further.

I hear Mr. Gray - a line to say - that I quite agree with you that "your husband is a great Humbug". Pardon - it was he who said his wife was - I believe - but immediately, by his attempt at self defence, convinced me of the contrary - or at least, that he is "a Humbug of a larger growth". Enclosed, if they will fit for a single postage as a collar & pair of cuffs - a new style of pattern - for morning wear - very cheap - only cost half a dollar - made by the steady half girls. I took a fancy to send them to you, when I saw a bundle recently arrived. They are called "Simplicity". - I date this letter from I.C.D. - but that address is a "Humbug" - for I am not writing in College. Further, I have ceased to live at College & have actually taken a house -

of my own - "4 Winton Road, Leeson Park, Dublin",
where I write. I believe I did not tell you of
this new plan, which was devised in June, & brought
to pass in July. Dr. Fisher & I have clubbed for a
house, & Mrs. Fisher "rules the roost" for us - & so
we, two old drones hang on our arm chairs by
the fire side, without trouble of management. The
system, so far, works well. At present we are
just out of town, & have a little garden, but houses
are fast springing up round us, & soon we shall
be shut out, I fear, from a view of the mountains,
which at present we rejoice in. We have early break-
fasts & are at College at our usual morning hours,
- I lose the evenings work there, but I bring out plants
& books, & do evening work at home - I turn the ladies
into the drawing room - spreading my affairs in the
dining room, which thus becomes my evening study. The Dr.
has his study apart, & only enlightens us at meal times,
except on Tuesday evening, when he reads us matter - grave
or gay, as may happen. - Occasionally I look in at the
old Leary house, to see how they get on. The "children"
are now all grown up. Betty is a young lady, "come
out". She has just returned from Buxton, where she has
been staying for 3 months with her uncle John, who still
remains there, a sad martyr to rheumatic gout &
nervousness. Betty is blooming, & makes an approved
young woman, but is not at all handsome. - Not that
she is ugly - but just, not handsome. So much for Betty. -
T.H.F. is much as usual, but rather gaily now & then -
he too has been at Buxton, & is but just home. Johnny
still at Buxton, with Uncle John. Joe, at business - a bright
eyed, jolly fellow, who ought to get on in "the struggle for
life". Johnny is too much of a dreamer, to make a man
of business. - All well at Plassy - except the Vines, which
have got Oidium, & yielded no grapes for two years. There
are 5 little children there now - $2 + 3$! (let him that reads this
understand). - Yours ever affectionately. W.H.H.

- & besides this, 50 ways between, when
one or other of the two must prevail. -
I have, & always had, a strong persuasion
against one-sidedness in scientific
explanations. The law of Gravity is the
greatest example of a One cause
acting ~~throughout~~ creation. But, in
opposition to it, we have the imponderable
(as they used to be called), which have to be
explained on the wave theory. Both together,
but neither separately, explain the physical
phenomena of the Cosmos. Hence, as I
think, this dualism of law, which lies
at the base of the structure of the Universe
- runs through every minor thing within
that universe, - meets us every where, &
must never be lost sight of. It is the cause
of all the dichotomies we meet with in
our arrangement - of what we call polar-
ity - of plus & minus &c. &c. But I must
not run on into speculation. Now, being
quite ready to grant to N. Sel. all that
it can fairly claim; I see still the greater
part of the work left for Nat. Selection's
Master, to perform - in a way which
has yet to be discovered. - And, so far,
I think you & I agree. - As for the rest,
I admire the intense clearness with which
you have stated the Darwinian hypothesis,
& the fulness with which you have given
every thing that makes for it, & still
- reserved for yourself a firm locus



Harvey, William H. 1860. "Harvey, William Henry Nov. 3, 1860." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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