

"Carefully to visitation in large,
"or make a very small
"series?"

I know what fleeting &
trifling things visitation
very often are; but by
giving attention to such as
have been thought worth
recording. -

If you could spare time to
send me even so brief
an answer to this, just
soon, it wd be a great
service to me -
Yours most truly Alfred
C. Darwin

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Down Bromley Kent

Feb. 21

My dear Fitz

By last letter begged me
favour, that you do; but
it will really cost you
very little trouble to answer
to me. & it will be
of very great service to me,
owing to a remark made
to me by Hooker, which
I cannot credit, & which
was suggested to him by
one of your letters. He
suggested by asking you, &

I told him, I would not
give the least hint
what he thought. I generally
believe Hooker implicitly,
but he is sometimes, I
think, & he confesses it,
rather over critical & his
infirmity in discerning flaws
seems to him universal. -
Here is my question -

"Do you think that good
Belmont in raising up
a local flora, rather than
a large, or in making

a Programme like DeCandolle,
would almost universally, but
unintentionally & unconsciously,
tend to record (i.e. marking
with Greek letters & giving
short character) varieties
in the larger or in the
small genera? Or would
the tendency be to record
the varieties about equally
in genera of all sizes?
Are you yourself conscious
on reflection, that you have
attended to, & recorded more

P. S. Gray 24

Do you know whether anyone
has ever published any
remarks on the geographical
range of varieties of
Plum in comparison
with the species, to which
they are supposed to belong.
I have in vain tried to
get some vague idea. I
write to experts of a
little information on this
head given me by Dr. W. C. Coker
a paper on Land Shells in
U. States; I have since
failed; but perhaps it will

be difficult for you to give
me even a brief and
answer on this head, & if
10 I am not 10 weeks, I
I assure you, -
expect it. -

If you are writing to England
1000 you I enclose the
letter to me to forward.
~~or~~

Please answer to question in
not better than are here or
fewer varieties in larger or
smaller genera, but better than
in a single ^{kind} ^{in the minds of Botanists} ^{or} ^{weeks} to record
and in large or small genera.



Darwin, Charles. 1858. "Darwin, Charles Feb. 21, 1858." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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