

I shall not, for my depend, & forget
a moment, what I look at as a
form. - But (as it is a heavy
"bit" to me) it will be long
before I go to press: I can
truly say I am never idle;
indeed I work too hard for my
much weakened health; yet I can
do up 3 hours of work daily, &
I cannot sit all day, when I
shall have finished: I have done
seven long chapters; but I have
got some other very difficult
ones, on paleontology, classification
& embryology, & I have to
correct & add largely to all
these. I find, alas, each
chapter takes me ^{on average} three months,
so slow I am. There is no

25

Down Bromley Kent
Ch. 4th

My dear Gray

Your kindness to me is really beyond
thanks. Believe me that I feel it.By an odd chance yesterday
morning, before I got your letter, I
had just written down what I
had to say on class allied
species in large genera; & I
thought that you had forgotten
all about your list, & knowing
how hard you were worked,
to my credit be it said, I
firmly resolved that nothing sh.
would induce me to remind you. Perhaps
you may believe how delighted I
was to get your list, which is now

being tabulated. — I am, also, patient
= long obliged for the answer to
(not able)
my question: Hooker & several other
Botanists differ from you & think
there would be a strong tendency
to omit recording actually exist-
ing variation in the smaller
genera. None of them pretend they
ever thought of this before I
asked the question, from which
little information was I have
done myself, I cannot decline
of several local floras
their view; & my tables, in
several respects contradict the
in my opinion, & show that
Botanists have worked rather
more systematically & regularly

in tabulating varieties than could have
been anticipated. This is my view,
but what Hooker will say, when
he reads, as I hope he will, my
discussion on the subject I know
not. Taking Books as a guide,
I find in local floras & in the
of 2 Entomological works, which
I have tried, that the rule is
almost universal, that the larger
genera have more species with
varieties (& a greater ^{number} of
varieties to the larger species)
than the smaller genera. —
You ask to see my sheets as
printed off: I spare you the
it will be the highest satisfaction
to me to do so: I look at the
request as a high compliment.

and to the very day I prepared. I
have just finished a chapter of
Instructions, & have I found grappling
with such a subject as Bee
cells & comparing all my notes
made during 20 years took up
a despatching length of time.

But I am running on about
myself in a most egotistical
style. Yet I must just say
how useful I have again &
again found your letters, which
I have lately been looking over
& getting; but you need not
fear that I shall quote anything
you would dislike, for I try to
be very cautious on this
head. — I most heartily hope

You may succeed in getting your
"incubus" of old work off
your hands & be in some
degree a free man.
A copy has most kindly sent
me his ~~Intending~~ two
first Part; but I confess I
am disappointed: I cannot
realize his value on the
value of the higher groups, &
all his population as a type.
Again let me say that I
do indeed feel grateful to
you & believe me
by dear Mary
You must trust
C. Davis



Darwin, Charles. 1858. "Darwin, Charles Apr. 4, 1858." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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