

Dear Baily Kent

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

My dear Gray

I have been for 10 weeks at Water Curr & on my return a fortnight ago thought I found a copy of your memoir, & heartily do I thank you for it. I have not read it, & shall not be able to do so until I am much recovered & you have my son, for I am much weaker & bedridden. He ~~sometimes~~ got near a bed as ever with perfect <sup>to</sup> a suspicion or climate, I beg you with perfect <sup>to</sup> believe that I never put myself in a more dangerous competition with Death, but then are his thoughts on subjects, the <sup>1</sup> ~~most~~ and forming some opinion. What I wrote to Hooker I forget, after reading of your sketch of your memoir, which I have written full & without to Mr. Hooker asked me to write & give, but as I told him, I would not presume to give, but <sup>to you</sup> with couple deliberating <sup>several days ago</sup> & pass on opinion, I knew not. I had previously what he wrote I knew not. I have written on warmer <sup>to</sup> seen (of which I forget) some health on warmer period in U. States admitted to special friend; & I had consulted here who seemed much to

difficult & better judgment is really admitted  
countries. — The argument derived in your  
paper & in your letter seem to me hardly  
sufficient; but that I do not at all  
insist upon this subsequent & intercalated warmer period  
to admit — the more changes the  
metamorph. I think. — On the other hand  
I do not believe the introduction of  
Old world forms into New world recent  
<sup>period</sup> will at any time do  
to glacial & will at any time do  
for the modified or vegetative forms  
in the two <sup>Ways; then has been too much</sup>  
~~(the little change of the isolated)~~  
change in comparison with Alpine  
forms; but you will see this in my  
Book. — I may just make a few remarks,  
why at first sight I do not attach much  
weight to the argument in your letter about  
the warmer climate. First of all it used to be  
land being <sup>been</sup> believed to glacial

period, as evidenced by the whole series. I think  
whether meteorological knowledge is sufficient for this  
dilection; turning to the S. Hemisphere it might  
be argued that a greater extent of water makes  
the temperature lower. And the much of the  
northern land was lower, it would have been  
of sea <sup>been</sup> intermigration between old & new  
worlds would <sup>have been</sup> checked. Second I think  
whether any influence on nature of climate  
can be deduced from those species of  
mammals. If the musk-ox & deer of  
Baffin Island had  
got into <sup>of</sup> your fossil bones, so  
been known of by fossil bones, so  
and have ventured to nominate the existing  
old climate by these under. With  
respect to food of large animals, if  
you care about the subject with you turn to  
my paper <sup>with</sup> respect to the elephant migration  
in the subject in my  
Journal of Researches (Murchison's Home & Colonial  
Mag.) Ch. V. p. 85. — In this country we  
infer from remains of elephant migration,

that to climate at the period of its  
embryon was very severe, as seen evidenced  
& the woolly covering of the nature of the  
with angular pegmatite <sup>coated</sup> to shells, & contains  
deposits - the nature of the <sup>1</sup> to <sup>A</sup> shells, & contains  
of the mark ox. I had formerly gathered  
from Lake Erie the relation printed  
of Megatherium & Mylodon with respect  
to the glacial deposits, but not been  
able make out; but perhaps it has  
been to recently. - Such are my  
views for up to set something to  
wonder period subsequent to glacial  
epoch; but I know I may be  
quite wrong, & shall not be at  
all sorry to be proved so. -  
I shall <sup>soon</sup> read you & you will  
see, for I have seen a set of a  
pegmatite & very likely some felsite which  
I will <sup>soon</sup> clearly understand, and be

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clear enough - and I am very sorry  
the Hooker said a word about my  
opinion, —

I have been much interested & all  
that you say is easy fact to  
letter about "Action" & Philosophy of the  
subject. As you truly remark, if one  
thinks a certain amount of Action there  
is no strong reason & why not & one  
may act. — But I work on the fact  
that the theory of natural selection explains  
many closer & facts, which, as far as  
we can see, repeated acts of Action  
do not explain. In this latter view  
we can only say "it is" & not at  
all "why it is". — Try to not  
decide, tho you have read Ch. XIII &

(CLXIV)

the Reciprocation which with, I think,  
and you in ~~belonging~~ <sup>to</sup> fact. — I value  
your opinion ~~most~~ <sup>very</sup> highly; & I hope  
you will <sup>not</sup> think me presumptuous  
in saying the <sup>way</sup> in which I have advised  
you several letters to me & others to  
Hooke <sup>which</sup> I have occasionally  
read. — I am rejoiced to say the  
Book is a complete <sup>work</sup> ~~work~~; & is logical  
& valid enough to be an <sup>authoritative</sup> writing a  
future change of opinion. — Huxley, a  
fainter into Fortescue, & Carpenter <sup>part</sup> relate  
physiologist are correct; as is H. C. Wilson.  
So that I am <sup>more</sup> than contented. — I  
am sure to be in error in many parts;  
but by general view, I conclude, must have  
the truth <sup>in</sup> it. — There are very little opponents.  
I used to copy of 3 Book that Murray. I had written at  
the Faberian Lecture of alpine plant 4 year before Forbes  
published, as Hooke knew, but I do not <sup>believe</sup> suppose the Forbes  
had ever heard of it: so he is <sup>as</sup> ignorant, as you will see in my  
Book. I do not attach to my prior work in <sup>the</sup> U.S. of describing  
C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1859. "Darwin, Charles Dec. 24, 1859." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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