

If you see Prof. Passon, will you
thank him for to thank Libell
& fair spirit in which his
essay is written. - Please tell
him that I reflected much on
the chance of ^{former} ^{the} ^{monstrous}
[ie great & sudden] variations here, of course, no
objection to this; indeed it is?

be great aid; but I did not
allude to subject, for after
much labour I could find nothing
which satisfied me of the probability
= life of ^{such} ~~these~~ occurrences. Then
seem to me in almost every
case too much, too complex,
& too beautiful adaptation in every
structure to believe in its
sudden production. I have alluded
under head of beautifully hooked

Down Bromley Kent

Aug. 11th

My dear Gray

On my return home from Sussex
about a week ago I found several
articles sent of you. - The 1st article
from the Atlantic which I am
very glad to possess. By the way
the Editor of Athenaeum has inserted
your answer to Agassiz, Bowen &
Co. & when I therein read them,
I admired them even more than
at first. They really seem to me
admirable in their condensation,
force, clearness & novelty.

I am surprised that Agassiz
did not succeed in writing something
better. How absurd the logical
quibble; - "if species do not exist

how can they vary?" As if anyone
doubted their temporary existence,
How could he suppose that
there is some deep defined
~~distinction~~ ^{distinction} between individual
differences & varieties. It is
now no wonder that a man
who calls identical forms
when found in two countries
distinct species, cannot find
variation in nature. Again
how unreasonable to suppose
that domestic varieties selected
for man for his own fancy
(p. 147) etc. resemble natural
varieties a species. The whole
article seems to me poor: it
seems to me hardly worth

a detailed answer (even if I could do
it), & I much doubt whether I possess
your skill in picking out salient
points & driving a nail into them
& indeed you have already
answered several points. Agassiz's
name, no doubt, is a heavy weight
against us; but yesterday I
heard that a man, whom I believe
to be greater than Agassiz, viz
Mr. Baer goes a long way
(how far I know not) into me, &
has spoken out publicly & will
probably publish. R. Wagner has
published also, in Germany an
abstract of Agassiz's Essay on
Application, & says he believes
the truth lies between us two;
& the vote makes a. very
savage, I think. &

May 35

seeds to such fertility. Monks
are apt to be sterile, or not
to transmit monastic peculiarities.
Look at fineness of gradation
in the blocks of successive sub-steps
of sea level formation. I
can give many other considerations,
which make me doubt such
view. - It holds to certain
extent with domestic production
in earth, where more frequent
some abrupt change in structure.
It seemed to me to see, ^{in R.} ~~Antiquities~~
quoted as a guide of affinities
of animals; & it gave me a
"cold shudder" to hear of
anyone speculating about a true
Continuum giving birth to a ^{true} Fish!

Since I wrote last I received
your note of July 10th, in which
you inform me to report my
story. (I fear Prof. Wyman
will never give me his
facts about striped horses)

Also you give me valuable
hints about *Disco-dimaphys*
flowers. — I was forced to
gather my cowslip seed too
soon, & I am all at
sea about its difference
in fertility; but I shall try
& work at it as better
next summer. —

By your daughter is desired

better, though this is my 2nd
week. But I hope the
organic mischief imparted by
the Doctors, consequent on
the fever, is slowly righting.
There was fluid in the
abdomen, but this seems
to have absorbed; but there
is still some hardness.
We have had a misadventure
of it. —

Farewell my kind friend

Yours most truly

C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1860. "Darwin, Charles Aug. 11, 1860." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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