

Jan. 22⁷⁴,

From Bromley Kent. -

My dear Gray

Your letter interested us much; for we are
all ~~so~~ curious to see how things look
to you all, & a letter is something
living. - But first thanks for your
new cases of *Dimorphium*: new cases are
turning in almost daily, but I shall
never have time to work a quarter of
them. You will have received before this
my *Pithecia* paper, & will know the wants
of evidence. - I have been ill with influenza
(indeed we all have, for ~~there~~ ^{there} have been
15 in bed in my household) & this
has lost me 3 whole weeks, & delayed
my little *Orchid Book*. - I fear that you
expect in this opusculus much more than
you will find - I look at it as a hobby-
horse, which has given me great pleasure

to ride. I will with great pleasure send you
the sheet if I can; for Oliver, & I write,
often goes out first off the tree when
is set up. — I shall be very anxious
to hear what you think of it; for I
have no idea whether it has been worth
the trouble of getting up! — though the
fact, I am sure, were worth my own
while in making out. I am
heartily glad to hear a better account
of Lane, whom I much respect. What
a striking looking man! I forwarded
your letter to Brett & to Hooker,
for whom I had a long & capital
letter this morning. He is working
like a horse. Here is a good
idea, & took on Nat. Selous, he

Sage, has made him an assistant in
fact — he thinks bleeding — to keep
breeding of the snitology — of the
highest importance. — and for a few
words on politics; but they shall be few,
for we shall no longer agree, & alas
& alas, I shall never receive another
kind message from Mr. Fay. I
must own the the speaker & actions
credit of your leading men (I regard little
the newspapers), and especially to Boston
I never have quite turned up stomach.
I refer to Wilkes' being made a Hero
for boarding an unarmed vessel — to
the Judges advice to him — & to your
Governor triumphing at a shot being
fired, right or wrong, except to brow
beat a British vessel. It is well to
make a clean breast of it at once;

& I have begun to think whether it
would not be wide in the peace of the
world, if you were split up into two or
three nations. On the other hand

I cannot bear the thought of the
Slave-holders being triumphant; &

it is really fearful to think of the
difficulty of making a line of
separation between the rich & the

P., with armies, fortifications,
& custom-houses without end with
your retrograde Tariff. Now I

have done for myself in your
eyes; & the free world

indignant
purpose to 10 false a tariff. >

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Will I can't help & change of
opinion - It is all owing to
that confused Longitude.

But now, as you will think
me, I shall always think of
you with affection. - Here is
an insult, I shall always
think of you as an Englishman.
Even yours very sincerely

Charles Darwin

P.S.
I have just perused an *Hercules*
letter in looking through the
nine big volumes of Lecons
Bot. Geog. - it is a horrid
Duke Book, but I have stumbled

in a few good facts; & in some
cases of *Dimorphia*, - several in
Botryocera & *Lebicta* - *Syrtis*
seems a very curious case for
the two or three kinds of flowers
occur on the same plant. - I am
now trying an experiment on
one of the *Melastomas*; & I
much suspect, that the two
sets of anthers have different
functions. >

Hottonia is *Dimorphic* like
Primula >



Darwin, Charles. 1862. "Darwin, Charles Jan. 22, 1862." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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