

June 10th 66

June Bunty Kent

+

My dear Greg.

Your generous sympathy makes you overestimate

what you have said of my orchid Book.

But your letter ^{Aug} of 18th + 26th has given me an

almost fortuitous amount of satisfaction. The

subject interested me, I know, beyond its

real ~~no~~ value; but I had lately got to

think that I had made myself a complete

fool of putting in a semi-popular form.

Now I shall confidently leave to wait. I have

heard that Bentham & Oliver approve of it;

but I have heard no opinion of no one else,

and opinion is worth a farthing. What

strange creatures these orchids are, for instance

muscivores, of which I have this morning examined

another species, & which support all that I

have said, but which has completely puzzled me.

I thank you much heartily for your note on some
American species. I am not surprised as
no true *Oncidium* grows near you, that the
following of *O. spectabile* were not secured.
I sh^d. expect that it would take perhaps
a long time before new insects would
leave to Dodge. - You probably pushed
too hard against the wind line & caught
the interesting atom of membrane, which, I
know, interferes with the paper merchant.
I will write to Murray about cost of
3 first woodcut; but I shall doubt he will
send to Carter, for I believe that there
is to be sent to be sent to Germany for
German edition. - I will do my best, but
I fear you shall not pay for them.
If there be (which is very unlikely) an
American edit, Murray will expect a

little more than scribble cost. But I will keep
back this letter till I hear from him.
Enough & too much about my orchids, which
are now again become beloved in my
eyes, & which were quite lately accused.
Murray thinks about copies of your *Peaghtlet*.
Do not trouble about *Hollies*; I think
they grow near; the case is not important.
Nothing will be made at, I fear, about
Rhexia, unless indeed a plant or
plant will be protected from insects.
I have now a *Rhexia glandulosa* under
trial, but there is little difference in flowers
& little to be made at. I am working
on several *Melastomas*; but am at fault;
I am, however, certain there is something
very remarkable; to follow of the set of

either produce less seed & to be amongst
the seedlings are swags compared to the
other set, all produced from the same
plant. - The labour is great: I have
lately counted one of our 6700 seeds of
Mimochloa! Mr. Meacham has
sent me his paper on parallel differences
in trees of N. America & Europe: may
be so kind as to remember to tell me
whether this can be approximately true;
for the case interests me much, as
best case I have seen of apparently direct
action of conditions of life. - Forgive
me for one bit more trouble: I have a
Boy with the collecting mania &
it has taken the poor fellow of
collecting Postage Stamps: he is terribly

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Eager for "Well, Fargo & Co Pay Express" 15
"2^o & 4^o Temp" & in a letter degree ~~the~~
"Bloods" 1. Penny Envelope, 1, 3, & 10 "
"certs". If you will make him this
present you will give him a letter
more or much pleasure, as a new
& curious general gift as I do only.

Since this was written the above letter man
has been struck down with scarlet-fever; but
thanks God this morning he can be taken
a mild form. — I have just received
your long note on *Cypripedium*; you may
believe how profoundly interesting they are to me,
with you who put them, either in writing or
Book in Stillman, or otherwise? But your note
was more interesting than you will suppose, for
while publishing I saw the flower show. *C. lewisii* =
= *triflorum*, but could not track it, but it seemed
to me that the sterile rather entirely correct

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The progress of the culture. I was amazed & (6
I am clear that there must be some sort
distinct manner of fertilization. But I did not
think of insects crawling into flowers; it is of
a different kind of pollen & is somewhat unusual
& very strange. By force it is wonderful.
You have hit on the same very idea which
Latham has expressed me, viz the experience
of criticism for some object: you will find
this point insisted & attempted to be partly
explained in the last chapter. No doubt you
volume contains much more: how curious & difficult
it is to be accurate, though I try my utmost.
You will have been interested in regard
measures. I can now afford to do so. I
critics with the complacency of mine?
cordial thanks for this benefit. - It is much
= fitting to me that you sh^d. have strength of
mind to care for science, amidst the awful
events daily occurring in your country. I daily

look at the Times with almost an equal interest (7
as an American could do. When we see
this it is difficult to think of the destruction
of large parts of your magnificent country; &
all the speechless misery suffered by many.
I hope & think it is unlikely that we
English are wrong in concluding that it will
take a long time for persons to return
to you. It is an awful subject to reflect
on. - from B. & dear friend. - I will keep
this for till I hear from Murray, which I
must be tomorrow.

Oh? think
I am keeping back this letter till I hear from
Murray. No, I fear is absent. I have now
received your interesting notes of June 2^d. How
can you ask whether your letters bore me?
I never in my life received a letter from you
that was dull. Your letters are a very great
pleasure & profit. I seldom see or hear from
a soul on Science. Most of my scientific friends
[See the 8th on back of p. 5.]

[This page has got in wrong place].

(8)

am so busy that I struggle to write to them.

Ateltheria is very pretty: I sh^d. conjecture its habitat

was affected nearly as described under Cettlegai;

for so it seems to be with Vaxilla, which I have

lately seen. How odd you are attending to

Cypripedium. I can at any time return you

(making up for self) your notes on this genus

& others. How very very kind it is in you,

overrated as you are, to send me so many

notes. - Heartily thanks about Housatonic: that

subject, I am working it hard & interests

me much. - By the way did you ever look

at the little (so-called imperfect) flowers of

Vicia & Oxalis: they are very curious, the

yellow-green emit their tubes which within

the calyx: it is curious to see these tubes

twisting up as strength takes from the lower

calyx in Oxalis, right to stigma: it is like

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I permit you finding their way to order. (9)
I received 2 or 3 days ago a French translation of
the Origin of Man. ^{de} Roger, who must be one
of the clearest & ablest women in Europe: is ^{ardent} in
~~and~~ ^{quite} & hates Christianity, & declares that
natural selection & the struggle for life will
explain all morality, notions of man, politics
and good
and bad!!! She makes some very curious
hits, & I got the little pamphlet & took it
as then subjects, & a strange production it
will be. Goodbye - till I hear from the
worth of Murray. (I have had another look at
your Aristotle; sometimes seem very like Vanilla &
unlike the of Aristotle. In Vanilla, the Schellum
unlike the Aristotle. In Vanilla, the Schellum
is furnished with a compound curious comb,
which would compel an insect in retreating
to rub it back against its thorax; but the
papilla in Aristotle seem very different.
How beautifully clear the spiracles look in
Vanilla in wings of

Chloris from a column.

If you were a *Spentaria* to look & take me (10)
whether pollen-grain emit tubes & not for either or
grains ^{are} collected on collecting hairs. -

I have just had letter from Mr. DeCade about
his ^{gives me facts} queries about he appreciates the
case, & about selection. He says he gives

as far as you about change of species, & he
laughs at Linnaeus' definition "Species
not numerous just ^{is} not created". But I

think for his letter you go further: he says
he wants direct proof of selection. He
wants to wait a long time for that.
Opticians do not wait for direct proof

of undulations of ether. But good Heaven

what a higgledy - piggledy letter I am
writing to you, who have hardly a minute
to spare. It is a horrid shame, so I

will stop. 20. At last I have heard from
Murray that he will instantly send to 3 out of
into let, if wanted; a publisher here who set "on easy terms"
yourself C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1862. "Darwin, Charles June 10, 1862." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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