

Aug 21.

Southampton

My dear Gray.

We are a wretched family & ought to be exterminated. We slept here to rest our poor Boy on his journey to Bournemouth, & my poor dear wife sickened with Scarlet-fever & has had it pretty sharply, but is recovering pretty well. Our Boy suffered sadly from the journey, though we took it on the advice of two Doctors. I fear he will be an invalid for months, if not years. —



There is no end of trouble in  
this way. - I shall not  
feel safe till we are all  
at home together, & when that  
with which I know Mr. Bush  
is foolish complaining.  
I received a few days ago  
your letter of Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> with all  
the interesting details on  
Hemistonia. It seems a grand  
case. I hope that Mr.  
Roth will write sure of putting  
them. The simple fact  
of two partners in the same  
species, & the reciprocal  
action of two hermaphrodites



seems to be well worth establishing;  
a full & first account is  
confirmed, nothing can be  
considered as established.  
I feel no sort of doubt  
after repeating 3 experiments  
on *Prunella*; but I shall  
probably not publish till winter,  
(even if there) & 10 M. R.  
could not first establish the case.  
I must just refer to stamps;  
by little means has calculated  
that he will now have 100  
stamps which is the Bg in  
to school has. There is a triumph.  
from last letter was planned  
with many colored stamps &  
he long succeeded to envelope



4  
in bed with much quiet satisfaction.  
I wrote you a mad  
letter the other day about  
Lithium; but the case is worth  
some inquiries. I have for  
months about Rhexia; but  
you say about pollen flitting  
at a green with that I have  
seen. — My Rhexia glandulosa  
seem very different, & I believe  
often nothing odd. Heterostemon &  
with, I suspect, turn out, & I  
perplexed (nothing) marvellous like  
Lithium. — I know almost as  
well as you, that systematic  
work is the foundation of  
everything; get in your case  
& Hooker's case, I perpetually



Gray 67  
feel inclined to do a  
systematic work. — I had a  
note from Harker this morning  
giving a pretty fair account  
of Mr Harker; but it almost  
seems that her heart is  
slightly affected. He tells  
me that he has got two  
wonderfully different flowers on  
same spike of a Vanda.  
Huxley is going to bring out  
a very curious Book on  
Man & Monkey. —  
I can see no Hong in  
melastomae; but secretion of  
Hong depends on most delicate



6  
combination of circumstances. It  
seems I begin with you in  
my days of secret work & then  
with myself all commence -  
I am switching away at a  
great rate.

Affairs seem to be getting  
with you more & more  
lenient. What with to end  
be. It seems to us here  
far more fearful, than it  
apparently does to you.  
Yours truly  
C. Darwin

I do very much like, if it is  
permitted to hear what you think of  
my last chapter in Orchid - book. -



Darwin, Charles. 1862. "Darwin, Charles Aug. 21, 1862." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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