

129

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

DOWN,  
BECKENHAM, KENT.  
RAILWAY STATION  
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

My dear Greg

I thank you much for  
your pleasant letter of Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Horton has been here 2 or 3

times (as Lady H. has been

here for a fortnight as a

vacationer) & I told him

about Linnaean specimens &

he was interested & looked

to his Colorado specimens

He finds "the American form

"in leaf strongly heterostyled than

"the European, & that the flowers

" & they are even equal  
" in some specimens; but  
he also finds variability  
in length in the European  
specimens. —

If I was forced to  
compare I will bet  
that the American  
form would prove at  
least functionally a distinct  
species. — If you  
get a  
chance, send me seed of

the Colorado form, I &  
you both form &  
see if they could be  
intercrossed artificially, &  
I would try whether  
the homozygous  
individuals were  
self-fertile. —

Yours affectionately  
(Ch. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1878. "Darwin, Charles Feb. 17, 1878." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225921>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/254415>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.