

1 seed true white, with a
minute purple.

Ever y dear Gray

from y^r sincerely

(Ch. Darwin

P.S. Some of the seeds received
last were a little flattened
& evidently different; they were
sown separately, but not
one germinated.

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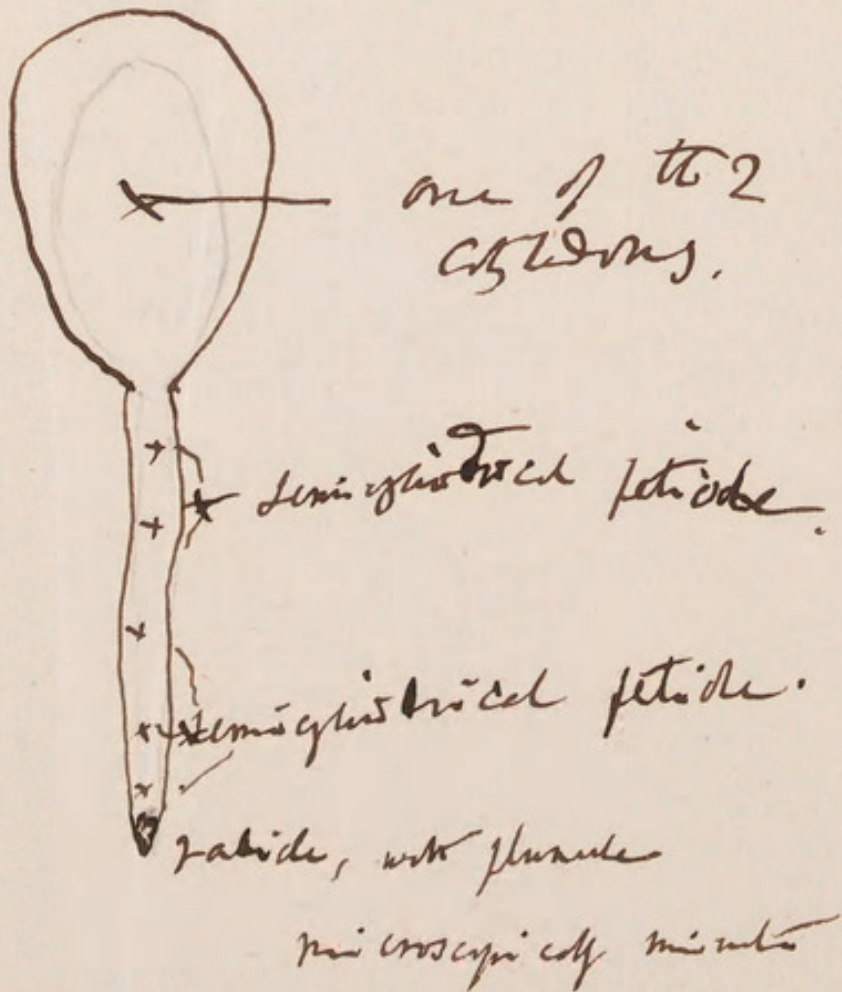
DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT.
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

My dear Gray,
If ^{my} ~~your~~ letter opened
your eyes, yours has opened
mine much wider. It is very
strange that plants, if they
belong to the same species, should
behave so differently. The seeds
were laid on the surface or
buried in a mixture of peat
sand & common soil, & ^{they} may
have yielded more easily than

your soil. From the extraordinary
intermission in the growth of
the true radicle, from the root-
hairs & from the petiole staining
brown with permanganate of potash
I must believe that the normal
function is to bury itself. What
a ~~strange~~ fact it is that in ~~my~~
case the petioles ~~in my case~~
were positively ^{geotropic} ~~heliotropic~~ & in
~~yours were negatively so. My~~

my
plants are growing very vigorous =
= by. Should they flower, I will
send you dried with leaves, for
the chance of your being able to
name them. — I am astounded
at the whole case. — I suppose
when the petioles grow in the
air they are stiffer than when
they are in soil, for mine could
not support the weight of the cotyledons.
One seed germinated abnormally; one
along 1 to 2 cotyledons emitted its petiole,
which was a brown 1/2 cylinder,
as in sketch with men indicated

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Darwin, Charles. 1880. "Darwin, Charles Feb. 17, 1880." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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