

it may still be an open
question.

Skinner is a very fine
man.

Darwin, on account of his
health has to ~~leave~~ away
from London, and seclude.

I give ~~no~~ letters to him -
least of all to a lively,
inquisitive Yankee, like
Beecher, who would give
him a fit of dyspepsia
at once. From some exalte-
ment. Besides Beecher
would put him into one of
his letters, to gratify public
curiosity.

Jane is much debilitated,
but bright - sends much love.

I have the Imperial Aca-
demy of Sciences of St. Petersburg
honorary membership - quite a
feather, as they are choice &
few. Diploma just came.
Ever Yours Always

[1863?]

Cambridge. July 6. 1863
Dear Alice

Yours of 20th ult.
came just in the midst -
just as Jane was M
for N. H. and I getting
ready to go to her aid.

We came back only on
Thursday - or rather Friday
morning.

My hand
so full that I could not
write to Darwin - to whom I
owe a long letter till to night.
I will now enclose your
note.

It would be very like
a chemist to think that
external influences will
explain every thing. - But
I presume he believes that

Peculiarities are heritable.

If he does, then he thinks he can explain, or will be able to explain; the origination of variations. I cannot - that is, to any extent, and do not expect to.

When he will show us how external influences actually worked to change a peacock into a pouter, it will be ~~long~~ I will consider his proposition.

If he means by "external influences" - vibrations has brought about the change, very well. - I, of course, allow that every ~~physical~~ effect variation has a cause - a physical cause. - But it seems to me you may as well say that

conception and the production of a normal offspring is the result of "external influences", as that the production of an abnormal (variant) offspring.

But there is no use writing at random -

You ask me whether I adhere to my notions before expressed with out at all showing me how they have been impugned.

I should rather expect Guyot to endorse Beaumont, - a theological bias would act singly.

But I rely more on Lartet, Boule, & Pictet, for the age & the deposit. Let



Gray, Asa. 1863. "Gray, Asa July 6, 1863 [to Charles L. Brace]." *Asa Gray correspondence : letters from Asa Gray to various individuals*

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