

nature would give  
us in ages back again  
the Dodo, the Moas,  
the extinct plants of  
St Helena and other  
bygone organisms,  
even of the simpler  
types.

It is good for man  
kind, for our earthly  
happinesses, that we  
cannot penetrate to  
the greatness of god-  
like power by any hu-  
man investigations. But  
a religion, built on ob-  
servations on the beauty  
& wisdom displayed  
in nature, preached in  
churches of her own or in  
the free globe world, would

Whit Sunday 19/5/80.  
Since writing my  
first letter for this  
mail to you, revered  
friend, I have recei-  
ved the volume of the  
two lectures, which you  
so considerately presen-  
ted to me. These discou-  
ses are worthy of an  
Ara Gray; the thoughts  
& the languages are  
equally powerful in  
these discourses, and  
the views of the essence  
of the day are blended  
with deep religious  
persuasion.



Much will we and the  
next generations yet  
have to learn, before  
the history of the world's  
creation will be revealed to us, though the  
origin and nature  
of the godlike vital  
force will be concealed  
for ever to mortal eyes!  
To discuss the great  
questions of these essays  
of yours with so great  
a man as yourself  
is not within the scope  
of a letter, even if a  
younger and <sup>you</sup> less authori-  
tative observer dared to  
express himself frankly  
on the subject. Was this

I might venture to say,  
that the so called proto-  
plasm is to my view  
not an uniform sub-  
stance through the great  
empires of living beings,  
and that the present  
creation does not en-  
tirely comprise forms  
of higher perfection, but  
many of less development  
than those of the past,  
both animal and vege-  
table. Nor do I think  
it possible, that the  
present plants & ani-  
mals in their marvel-  
ous diversity and co-  
proximity could have  
sprung from <sup>or few</sup> one type,  
and I feel satisfied,  
that no efforts of  
mechanical



changed in the last  
since science began  
to record its observations!  
I fancy that it is  
god's <sup>own</sup> breath as well  
in us human beings  
as in the simplest of  
organisms, which gives  
vitality. Under the ordi-  
nance of such a ruler  
we may rest secure,  
that we are watched &  
may anticipate a happy  
future, of which Religion  
gives us an earthly  
forethought. And why  
should we poor mortals  
narrow try to narrow  
God's creative power on this  
atom of the world down  
to a <sup>mere</sup> primordial germ,  
without support and  
evidence.

9 May 1880  
greatly elevate the  
spirit of those, who  
cannot cling to criti-  
cal revelations.

Homo sapiens remains  
after the study of  
thousands of years  
an unaltered species;  
and I feel convinced,  
that in the same  
manner other <sup>true</sup> species  
move within defined  
absolute limits, but  
our observations are  
as yet far too scanty  
to <sup>encompass</sup> define their <sup>real</sup> specific  
boundaries; that will  
be the work of coming  
centuries. Herbert's early  
observations on the fertility of hybrids



when extended will  
give us many a  
new insight also  
into the value of  
specific forms, now  
often kept very apart.  
I rejoice to under-  
stand from your dis-  
course, that you do  
not deem the mere  
idea of selection suf-  
ficient to account for  
the development of higher  
organized from lower  
creatures. How could  
any one from a medical  
point alone! To my  
mind we must grasp  
the question of the or-  
eation of organized spe-

cies from considerations  
of the whole creation  
of the universe. ~~How~~  
Could the eye of the  
mere housefly with  
its thousands of lenses  
& optic adjuncts gradu-  
ally originate by evolution?  
And even if so, which I  
do not believe, is not  
our world of organisms,  
wonderfully varied as it  
is, a mere speck in the  
universe, without world  
without end? Must  
not the grandest pla-  
nets ~~originate~~ with their own  
originate from the same  
godly power, which called  
forth the wondrous  
optic apparatus of  
insects, neither the one  
nor the other having



7 May 1884  
Can we not in religious  
belief concede to the  
supreme power the  
might of calling forth  
distinctly the organic  
species? The primor-  
dial germ, if such  
existed, must be the  
most <sup>earthly</sup> marvellous  
of wonders anyhow,  
to be capable to develop  
in hundreds of thou-  
sands of species, easily  
recognized & classified  
even by ~~our~~ human understanding.

It must be a great  
consolation to you, dear  
& honored friend, that  
after the toils of en-  
quiries through a long  
life you can still



like Brewster and  
so many others of  
the wise, cling to  
the comforts and  
assurances of religion!

Ever yours

Judson Muellus



Mueller, Ferdinand von. 1880. "Mueller, Ferdinand von May 16, 1880."  
*Ferdinand von Mueller letters to Asa Gray*

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