

autumn, and to his controversy on the Cotton Famine with Lancashire mill-owners and millionaires.

TO CHARLES DARWIN, ESQ., F.R.S., &c. &c.

January 31, 1862.

"We have just returned from Lord Ashburton's at the Grange, where the Bishop of Oxford, the Duke of Argyle, and I, have naturally talked much about you and your book.\*

"As for the Bishop, you know what he thinks. The Duke is calm, liberal, and ready to hear all reason; though puzzled, as every one must be, by a hundred new questions which you have opened.

"What started us on you and your theory was the shooting in the park of a pair of 'blue rocks,' which I was called to decide on. There were several men there who knew blue rocks. The Duke said that the specimen was different from the blue rock of the Hebrides. Young Baring, that it was different from the blue rock of Gibraltar and of his Norfolk rabbit warrens (which I don't believe, from the specimens I have seen, to be a blue rock at all, but a stunted stock dove, which feeds in rabbit holes), and I could hardly swear that this was a blue rock (as the keeper held), till I saw, but very weakly developed, the black bars on the wing cornets.

"Do you care enough about the matter to have a specimen of the bird? He comes in twos and threes (from the Isle of Wight, I suppose) to the heart of South Hants, and feeds on ivy berries.

"My own view is—and I coolly stated it, fearless of consequences—that the specimen before us was only to be explained on your theory, and that cushat, stock dove, and blue rock, had been once all one species; and I found—to show how your views are steadily spreading—that of five or six men, only one regarded such a notion as absurd. . . .

"At least believe me, differing now and now agreeing,

"Yours faithfully,

"C. KINGSLEY."

In answer to this query, Mr. Darwin writes :

"With respect to the pigeons, your remarks clearly show me (without seeing specimens) that the birds shot were the stock *C. Cenas*, long confounded with the cushat and rock pigeon. It is in some respects identical in appearance and habits; as it breeds in *holes* in trees and in

\* "Origin of Species," recently published.

rabbit warrens. It is so far intermediate that it quite justifies what you say on all the forms being descendants of one. . . ."

Of the blue rock dove of the Eastern counties, Mr. Kingsley had previously written to Sir Charles Bunbury :

"I trust that you will excuse my troubling you in the cause of science ; but I have asked a very good local ornithologist about the dove of your warrens ; and he says that it is either the blue rock dove (parent of our domestic pigeon) or an unknown and mysterious dove which used to haunt the open lands of Cambridge twenty years ago, and is now disappearing.

"Would it be possible for your keeper to procure me a specimen of the bird, and a couple of its eggs? We might thus clear up a loose point—always a thing to be desired."

TO CAPTAIN ALSTON, R.N.

EVERSLEY, *March 20, 1862.*

"I cannot thank you enough for your splendid present, which arrived this morning. I have tried one of them, and they are admirable. I have given some to an old army friend, who is too poor to buy cigars, and who is licking his lips over them with delight. So you have made two men happy. They will last me for the next three years.

"As for the Workmen's Club, Mrs. Kingsley has sent you a list of books which she recommends. The best periodical for them is certainly Norman McLeod's 'Good Words,' which is quite admirable, and has now a very large circulation—70,000, I believe. I do not think that I would give them Carlyle yet. If I did, it would be 'Past and Present.' And yet, things have so mended since it was written that that would be unfair. The 'French Revolution' is the book, if they would only understand it.

"I am not the man to give you any practical suggestions as to the working of such a club. But if when you come to London, you choose call on my dear friend, Tom Hughes (Tom Brown), he would give you many admirable hints learnt from experience.

"I am truly thankful to hear that I have helped to make a churchman of you. The longer I live, the more I find the Church of England the most rational, liberal, and practical form which Christianity has yet assumed ; and dread as much seeing it assimilated to dissent, as to Popery. Strange to say, Thomas Carlyle now says that the Church of England is the most rational thing he sees now going, and that it is the duty of every wise man to support it to the uttermost."