

As I am in possession of a letter of Charles Darwin which will certainly excite a general interest and as I conceive that I am not acting contrary to the wish of the deceased by its publication, I will hand it over to publicity.

I should wish however in the first place to be permitted to say a few words as to how I became possessed of this letter.

Some years ago I began to collect Autographs and as I soon found that the most remarkable men were the most friendly towards Collectors, I wrote to Charles Darwin and 8 days afterwards was in possession of his Autograph.

Charles Darwin  
Down Kent

7 Feb. 1878

A year later religious doubts arose in me through the reading of his writings. And as I had already once had an opportunity of learning Darwin's kindness, I turned to him with the request that he would have the great kindness to write me whether the belief in God was reconcilable with the theory of evolution? A short time after I received the following letter from his wife (??)

(Letter follows)

Notwithstanding that, or rather because I  
had at that time given verbal offence to the  
principal representative of these doctrines  
in Germany, I was not yet satisfied, not  
yet at one with myself, and I wrote for  
the third time and begged him again to  
answer me a few questions, which he answered  
in the following terms: -

(letter follows)

The original M.S. is to be found, as is  
evidenced by the superscription, in my collection

Jena 1882

(sic)

Nicolas Baron Mengden

(?) Studirend)

certificated by copyist in English

The preceding copies correspond exactly with  
the originals of the letters written by  
Charles Darwin

Jena 6 Jun. 82

D. Ernst Waesche

Die allgemeine Theil-  
nahme der ganzen  
gebildeten Welt an Ihrem  
grossen Verluste wird der  
beste Trost Ihnen  
Frau Mutter sein.

Mit der Bitte,  
derselben meinen respect-  
vollen Gruess zu entrichten

bleibe ich

Ihr sehr ergebener

Frost Kaeckel