

Penick

May 13/82.

My dear Frank.

I have pondered a
good deal over the point, &
conclude that it is best to put
^{when possible}
an absolute veto on the
publication of any letters
whatever. The German are
unforgotten nuisances; men
more utterly despicable to your
father & every conceivable literary
social & gentlemanly idea, do
not exist: & beyond a common
belief in evolution, exaggerated
into adoration on their parts,
there is no harmony ^{with his} in their
character, of any sort or kind.

I have a letter from you this morning, asking my interest to become with the translation into German of the "Protophy of Darwin"!

The difficulty is how to enforce the veto. Possibly the best plan would be to tell the applicants that in this country such letters are regarded as sacred so long as they bear the immediate relations of the ~~depression~~ ^{depression} ~~press~~ on which, & that it is usual to hold them at the disposal of the family in view of

a biography. Of course a member of
the family has seen more difficulty
in refusing the veto than I should
have.

As to the Baron's letter - I think
you might ask him for it, on the
plea that between German & English
(as languages) there is a great chance
of his having misinterpreted your
feeling ^{intention} - adding that from
you can assure him that had
your father supposed it possible
that his ~~letter~~ ^{private correspondence} on such subjects
would be drawn before the
public, he would never have
answered the B's letter at all!

Then as to Haackel - I should
certainly ask him for the letters he
has (or copies of them) in view of
the biography. I shall probably

See him, & if of any ^{use} ~~use~~, would
you say any thing you pleased to him.

You are quite right. not to think
too soon of actual work on the
biography: it will take long to
collect the materials. & these must
be "billed, bought, borrowed & stolen"
- as the collectors have it!

Romanes will have something of
Nature, which has subordinated germs
for the geology - I have urged Romanes
to make it quite general if he must
do it all. - Under this arrangement
Dun has offered to supply a brief
sketch, not of his botanical works,
but of the influence of his work on the
development of Botany - This will be
short & well done, whether Romanes
may be.

Very thanks Mr Darwin for his very
kind note -
C. D. Darwin
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