

(FACSIMILE.)

Feb 3<sup>d</sup>. 1875

DOWN,  
BECKENHAM, KENT.  
RAILWAY STATION  
ORPINGTON. S. E. R.

Dear Sir

I received this morning a copy  
of your work "Entre Wigen";  
either from yourself or from  
your publisher; & I am  
greatly obliged for it. - I  
had, however, before bought  
a copy & had sent the new  
one to my best Librarian, the  
of the Royal Soc<sup>y</sup>. - As I  
am a very poor German scholar  
I have as yet read my abstract

40 pages, but there  
has interested me  
in the highest degree.

Your remarks on fixed &  
variable species deserve  
the greatest attention;  
but I am not at  
present quite convinced,  
that there are such  
independent of the conditions  
to which they are subjected.

I think you have done great  
service to the principle  
of revolution, which we  
both support, by publishing  
the work. I am to

be glad to read it,  
as I had not time to  
read Wiggins' great &

tedious volume. - With my

best thanks for the loan  
which you have done me, &  
with the greatest respect

I remain Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

C. L. Davidson

DOWN, BECKENHAM, KENT, S.E.

September 9th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,

I lately received, but I do not know by whom sent, a copy of your "Darwin'sche Theorie,"\* and I hope that you will allow me to express the admiration and interest which it has excited in me. I must also thank you very sincerely for the manner in which you speak of my works. I am well aware that your generosity leads you to form *much* too high an estimate of what I have done; but it is deeply gratifying to receive the sympathy of so experienced an observer as yourself. As I am a very poor German scholar I have as yet read only a portion; but I have already found many observations and incidental remarks of especial interest to me.

The case of the male silver pheasant who was rejected by the females when despoiled of his ornaments will be very useful to me to quote in what I am now writing. I wish you had specified a little more in detail in what manner the plumage was injured. If you have yourself observed any analogous facts with mammals or birds, and would be so obliging as to communicate them, I should feel particularly grateful.

Pray believe me, dear Sir, with my best thanks and sincere respect,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) CHARLES DARWIN.

P.S.—I will venture to trouble you with one other question on the chance of your having bred last year the *Pavo spiciferus*. I am very anxious to know whether the spurs in this species are developed earlier or later in life, or at about the same period, as in the male of *Pavo muticus*.

It would be necessary to compare birds of the two species hatched last summer, for the spurs are quite small during the first year.

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\* Compare chapter VI. of this volume.

DOWN, BECKENHAM, KENT,  
RAILWAY STATION ORPINGTON, S.E.R.

*February 3rd, 1875.*

DEAR SIR,

I received this morning a copy of your work "Contra Wigand," either from yourself or from your publisher, and I am greatly obliged for it. I had, however, before bought a copy, and have sent the new one to our best Library, that of the Royal Society. As I am a very poor German scholar I have as yet read only about 40 pages, but these have interested me in the *highest* degree.\* Your remarks on fixed and variable species deserve the greatest attention; but I am not at present quite convinced that there are such independent of the conditions to which they are subjected. I think you have done great service to the principle of evolution, which we both support, by publishing this work. I am the more glad to read it, as I had not time to read Wigand's great and tedious volume. With my best thanks for the honour which you have done me, and with the greatest respect,

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CH. DARWIN.

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\* Compare chapter V. of this volume.

## PREFACE.

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DR. GUSTAV JAEGER is well known to the English-speaking world through his hygienic discoveries and researches. But, apart from his reforms in this direction, he has for many years been an active investigator in numerous other branches of Organic Science. He is one of that small group of scientists who, under the leadership of CHARLES DARWIN, thirty years ago, carried the flag of Darwinism from victory to victory; and a number of his own researches opened up new lines of investigation which are of the utmost importance to the general progress of Organic Science.

Dr. JAEGER has written on a great variety of subjects, and it is, of course, impossible to give in detail the observations and investigations of a lifetime in a single volume like this, which, however, comprises most of his important discoveries and researches. Classical investigations like those on *The Influence of Gravitation*, on *The Origin of Species*, on *Sexual Selection*, on *Inheritance*, &c., &c., will rank among the best efforts of research during the Darwinian period, and reveal a mind which is not only familiar with the great mysteries of organic life, but has successfully solved some of the most important of them. In this connection may be particularly mentioned Dr. JAEGER'S discoveries on the influence of the force of gravitation in the organic cosmos.

With so much material to choose from, I have found difficulty in doing justice to Dr. JAEGER'S kind permission to make a selection from his multifarious writings.

The contents of the present volume are divided into the following parts:—

PART I.—ZOOLOGICAL.

PART II.—ANTHROPOLOGICAL.

PART III.—VARIA.

The idea of this work originated with Mr. LEWIS R. S. TOMALIN, to whom I am greatly indebted for the valuable

## PREFACE.

help and furtherance which he has given to its publication. Mr. TOMALIN has especially assisted me in the literary revision of the proofs, and in the endeavour to aim at idiomatic correctness of diction. For the scientific interpretation of Dr. JAEGER'S ideas I am alone responsible. I take this opportunity of acknowledging the readiness of the various publishers of Dr. JAEGER'S works to allow me to make whatever selections appeared to me to come within the scope of this volume. A list of these works will be found at the end of the book by those who desire to study Dr. JAEGER'S writings in the original.

While great pains have been taken to ensure the faithful rendering into English of the sense of Dr. JAEGER'S writings included in this volume, the translation is not to be understood as, in all cases, a strictly literal one. The scope of the work has, moreover, necessitated a certain amount of abridgment, in which, however, careful regard has been had to the context.

I have tried to render the essays as intelligible as possible to the general public, but in some instances scientific accuracy would have suffered from an endeavour to write in a too popular manner. In order to overcome this difficulty a small glossary is appended, explaining the less familiar terms used by Dr. JAEGER.

In conclusion, I would draw the reader's attention to the two letters of CHARLES DARWIN, which will be found at the beginning of the book. They are of interest both from a scientific and from a historic point of view, revealing not only the scrupulous desire for the investigation of truth, but also the characteristic modesty and simplicity, of the greatest natural philosopher of our century.

THE EDITOR.