

painted from life, in 1881, by the Hon. John Collier now adorns the Meeting Room of the Society, and will be on view in the rooms of his old College during the month of June.

B. DAYDON JACKSON.

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### SOME LETTERS FROM CHARLES DARWIN TO ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

[The thanks of the Editors are due to Dr Wallace for kindly placing these letters at their disposal. They are also greatly indebted to Mr Francis Darwin for the correction of the proofs and for the notes. The fifth and eighth letters are now published for the first time.]

[MOOR PARK, FARNHAM.]

May 1, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am much obliged for your letter<sup>1</sup> of Oct. 10 from Celebes received a few days ago: in a laborious undertaking sympathy is a valuable and real encouragement. By your letter and even still more by your paper<sup>1</sup> in *Annals*, a year or more ago, I can plainly see that we have thought much alike and to a certain extent have come to similar conclusions. In regard to the Paper in *Annals*, I agree to

<sup>1</sup> The paper referred to is "On the Law that has regulated the Introduction of New Species" (*Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1855). The Law is "Every species has come into existence coincident both in space and time with a pre-existing closely allied species." Mr Wallace remarks (*My Life*, Vol. 1. p. 335) "This clearly pointed to some kind of evolution...but the *how* was still a secret."

Mr Huxley has said of this "powerful essay":—"On reading it afresh I have been astonished to recollect how small was the impression it made." (*Life and Letters of C. Darwin*, Vol. II. p. 185.)

you, stating that I would *not* publish anything before you had published. I had not sent that letter to the Post when I received one from Lyell and Hooker, *urging* me to send some MS. to them, and allow them to act as they thought fair and honourably to both of us.—I did so.

DOWN, BROMLEY KENT.

Aug. 9, 1859.

MY DEAR MR WALLACE,

I received your letter and memoir on the 7th and will forward it tomorrow to Linnæan Society<sup>1</sup>. But you will be aware that there is no meeting till beginning of November. Your paper seems to me *admirable* in matter, style and reasoning; and I thank you for allowing me to read it. Had I read it some months ago I should have profited by it for my forthcoming volume. But my two chapters on this subject are in type; and though not yet corrected, I am so wearied out and weak in health, that I am fully resolved not to add one word, and merely improve style. So you will see that my views are nearly the same with yours, and you may rely on it that not one word shall be altered owing to my having read your ideas. Are you aware that Mr W. Earl published several years ago the view of distribution of animals in Malay Archipelago in relation to the depth of the sea between the islands? I was much struck with this and have been in habit of noting all facts on distribution in the Archipelago and elsewhere in this relation. I have been led to conclude that there has been a good deal of naturalisation in the different Malay islands

<sup>1</sup> "On the Zoological Geography of the Malay Archipelago." *Linn. Soc. Journal* IV, 1860 (Zoology).

and which I have thought to certain extent would account for anomalies. Timor has been my greatest puzzle. What do you say to the peculiar *Felis* there? I wish that you had visited Timor: it has been asserted that fossil Mastodon or Elephant's tooth (I forget which) has been found there, which would be grand fact. I was aware that Celebes was very peculiar; but the relation to Africa is quite new to me and marvellous and almost passes belief. It is as anomalous as relation of *plants* in S. W. Australia to Cape of Good Hope. I differ *wholly* from you on colonisation of *oceanic* islands, but you will have EVERYONE else on your side. I quite agree with respect to all islands not situated far in ocean. I quite agree on little occasional intermigration between lands when once pretty well stocked with inhabitants, but think this does not apply to rising and ill-stocked islands.

Are you aware that *annually* birds are blown to Madeira, to Azores (and to Bermuda from America). I wish I had given fuller abstract of my reasons for not believing in Forbes' great continental extensions; but it is too late, for I will alter nothing; I am worn out and must have rest. Owen, I do not doubt, will bitterly oppose us; but I regard this very little; as he is a poor reasoner and deeply considers the good opinion of the world, especially the aristocratic world. Hooker is publishing a grand Introduction to Flora of Australia and goes the whole length. I have seen proofs of about half. With every good wish,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

C. DARWIN.

Excuse this brief note, but I am far from well.

I hope that I shall not have wearied you with these details. With sincere thanks for your letter, and with most deeply-felt wishes for your success in science and in every way, believe me,

Your sincere well-wisher,

C. DARWIN.

DOWN, BROMLEY KENT.

Mar. 7. [1867?]

MY DEAR WALLACE,

The addresses which you have sent me are capital, especially that to the Rajah; and I have despatched two sets of queries<sup>1</sup>. I now enclose a copy to you and should be very glad of any answers; you must not suppose the P.S. about memory has lately been inserted; please return these queries as it is my standard copy. The subject is a curious one, I fancy I shall make a rather interesting appendix to my Essay on Man.

I fully admit the probability of "protective adaptation" having come into play with female butterflies as well as

<sup>1</sup> The "queries" consisted of a number of questions on the expression of the emotions which Darwin sent out to missionaries and others having opportunities of studying savage or primitive peoples. The following is No. 1: "Is astonishment expressed by the eyes and mouth being opened wide, and by the eyebrows being raised?" The complete set is published in *The Expression of the Emotions*, p. 15.

The essay on man (mentioned a few lines below) was afterwards known as the *Descent of Man*, while the appendix grew into the *Expression of the Emotions*.

with female birds. I have a good many facts which make me believe in sexual selection as applied to man, but whether I shall convince any one else is very doubtful.

Dear Wallace,

Yours very sincerely,

CH. DARWIN.

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### PRESENT-DAY DARWINISM.

THE centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the jubilee of the "Origin of Species" has naturally led biologists to take stock of the present position of the Darwinian theory, and to consider how far the ideas put before the world in 1859 may still be accepted after 50 years of discussion and research. In discussing this question it must be remembered that under the name Darwinism two very different conceptions have been included. Popularly, Darwinism has generally been regarded as synonymous with the theory of organic evolution, and it may be said at once, without fear of contradiction, that our reasons for believing in evolution have become continuously stronger and more convincing every year since the "Origin" was published. Fifty years ago, to be an evolutionist was to be a heretic; now it is the orthodox belief, and a man who is not an evolutionist is regarded as a crank.

But, strictly speaking, Darwinism is not evolution; there were evolutionists before Darwin, and his theory only supported an idea already widely though not generally held. Darwin's great contribution to science was his explanation