

Vance ^{113 West Ninth Street}
Cincinnati, Ohio,

Nov. 10th 1879

Charles Darwin, F. R. S.,
Downs,
Kent, England,

My Dear Sir:-

I have by no means forgotten
the kindly manner in which you
responded to my inquiries relative to
certain points in the anatomy of
the lining membrane of that portion
of the intestinal canal in the
lower animals which corresponds, in
man, to the mucous membrane of the
rectum, and, as several years may
elapse before I revisit England, I
beg you to accept the copy of my
monograph on the Rectum and its

diseases which will ~~be~~
you by the bearer, my friend
J. H. Litcher, M.D., of Henderson,
Kentucky. I beg to call your
attention to the ~~IX~~th article, entitled
"Observations on those Structures in the
Mucous Membrane of the Human Rectum
Known as the Valves of Houston". Now
that the profits of Chirurgery have
seduced me from the more
pleasing pursuits of Physiology,
I may be unable to follow out
the path those curious structures
opened before me, but I can never
forget the kindly manner in
which you encouraged and aided
me at a time, when the merest
reference to the line of inquiry
I was following, but too frequently
evoked incredulity or contempt

and that too on the part of those whose position and character should have been a guaranty of other and better things.

My friend Doctor Litcher, the bearer, has been a deeply interested student in the same line, and now visits London for professional improvement. The Doctor will bear me out in this: Should you ever visit us here in America you would find how highly you are revered, how warmly you are esteemed — not by any one profession nor the representatives of any one branch of research but — by all intelligent men as the representative and recognized

leader in Science! Trusting
many years of active usefulness
are yet before you in which
to enjoy your well-earned
honors, I am,

My dear Sir,

Very truly and sincerely
Your Obedt Servt,

Ruben A. Wance