

Dr. Nieuw Amsterdam 15 Oct 81

Dear Sir

I have been very much interested by your Volume on the formation of vegetable mould through the action of worms, which you had the great kindness of sending me. I had often observed the frequent occurrence of these worms and their castings, and was acquainted with an account of von Hensler's paper, but had not the least suspicion of the prominent part worms have taken in the formation of the vegetable mould, as I learn from your observations. After reading the first chapters of your book, I have been attending to the habits of worms, and had the good fortune of repeating



some of your interesting observations,  
but it seems that time and weather are  
not now favourable to these experiments.

For some time I have been  
studying the causes of the variations of  
plants, as described in your treatise on the  
variations of animals and plants under  
domestication, and have endeavoured to  
collect some more facts on this theme.  
In your Origin of species you have  
promised a Volume on the variations of  
animals and plants in the wild state and  
I very much hope that some day you will  
have the kindness of fulfilling this promise  
and of making us acquainted with the  
results of your investigations on this most  
interesting subject. I have always  
been especially interested in your hypothesis  
of Pangenesis, and have collected a series  
of facts in favour of it, but I am sure,

that your promised publication will contain  
much more evidence on all such points, as  
I would for many years be able to collect.

With many thanks for your kind  
present

Yours sincerely  
J. Hugo de Vries.

JH