

Ridley Natural History Museum.

S Kensington

July 1882

Dear Sir.

I understand that you are desirous of procuring letters written by your late father, for the purpose of illustrating his biography; I was fortunate enough to receive two from him some years back; one of which I think may be of some use to you. I therefore enclose it. It will be unnecessary to ask you to restore it when you have finished

written it, as I feel sure you
will know what a high
value I attach to it.
The history of it is as follows
In 1878 Dr. Pusey preached a
sermon at the University church
in Oxford called "Un-science
not Science adverse to faith"
This was afterwards printed with
the addition of notes which con-
veyed an entirely erroneous
idea of the "Theory of Evolution"
and the objects your father had
in writing the "Origin of Species"
I therefore took the trouble
to remonstrate with Dr. Pusey
on his ~~poor~~ ^{unfair} statements, and
to verify my remarks appeared
on three points to your father.
I may add that I should have
ignored the misstatements

but that the sermon seemed
to have created some amount
of sensation among Oxford
men.

The three questions I asked
were

1. Whether Mr Darwin wrote the
Origin of Species, with a wish
to overthrow the dogma of se-
parate Creation
2. Whether the transformation
theory was a special object
of his interest because
it dispensed with the
intervention of a personal
Creator
3. Whether it was his object to
establish a First Cause, to
save us from the conception
of the eternity of matter, ~~but~~

The letter is I am aware
only signed by your father
could you tell me who wrote
the rest of it, of course at
your father's dictation?

I remain

Yours truly
Henry. P. Ridley.