

1700 13th St., n. w.,
Washington, D. C.

June 8th 1882

My dear Mr. Darwin,

In reply to your favor of May 25th I take pleasure in enclosing the only letters which, so far as I can find, I ever received from your father. These are appreciated all the more that they were written voluntarily, for I could never bring myself to write to him from a feeling that his time was too valuable to be wasted by suggestions or letters from me. Do with these three letters as you see fit, so long as you return them to me as memorials always to be cherished.

We have a flourishing Biological Society here, conceived only two years since and numbering now some 150 members. As you

may note from the enclosed card
we held a special meeting in honor
of your father and it was wonderfully
well attended. After giving some
account of his work in Entomology,
I was called upon for some personal
rememiscences, and as the proceedings
of the meeting will be published
I know you will pardon the liberty
I take in enclosing the rough draft
of my remarks, and in asking you
to correct any errors of memory
or judgement. I would especially
like to have a few more exact
data in reference to the peculiarities
of the house, your father's exact
height and whether or not the
lane I speak of, opens into the
estate. Also the color of his eyes,
my impression being that they
were brown, but I am probably
wrong. Pray make any measures
or additions to the rough draft.

send and return it to me.

In closing allow me to express my heartfelt sympathy and condolence with those of his family who mourn his loss. It certainly happens to few men to be so feelingly and universally mourned and ~~if~~ though your grief is not lessened by the number who share it with you, yet it is, I trust, tempered in the knowledge that he has been so greatly honored, not only for what he did for the world, but for his lovely and lovable private character.

Very sincerely Yours

C. V. Riley

Francis Darwin Esq.,