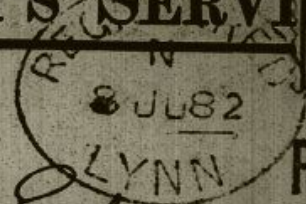


ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE



*J. Skertchley*  
*Francis Darwin, Esq.*



REGISTERED

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*Kent.*

*Skertchley*

H. M. Geological Survey.



Amstanton  
Kings Lynn  
June 8<sup>th</sup> 82.

My dear Sir.

I enclose one of my most valued treasures - a letter from your father; full, as you will see, of encouragement, written about the time I made the discovery of Palaeolithic Implements below boulder clay in East-anglia. I had worked for years at this question and though perfectly satisfied in my own mind that many of the known implements were of glacial age, I could not prove my case till I

Francis Darwin Esq.



found these implements.  
The announcement made  
a great stir, and I regret to  
say that so strenuously  
was the discovery debated  
that even my personal  
honour was impugned. This  
went on for three years and  
I was precluded from pub-  
lishing full details because  
I was a government official,  
and the full evidence has  
not even yet been issued.  
But I gave the entire results  
at the Sheffield meeting of  
the Brit. Assoc<sup>n</sup> and won  
the day. Not a single geologist  
has ever seen the evidence  
on the ground, but without



being convinced - the facts  
are so clear. Nevertheless  
Evans still demurs, but  
he has no argument to  
offer against the facts.  
I don't understand this  
sort of science; a matter  
does not want proving  
twenty times to make  
it true.

It was in the midst  
of this, to me harassing  
time, that the enclosed  
was sent to me, and as  
a proof (if needed) of the  
great consideration your  
father had for original workers  
it is most telling. It comforted  
me more than I can express,  
and did I not know you will



be most careful with it,  
I could not part with it.

I may also say, I hope without  
egotism, that it also shows  
how clearly your father saw  
sound argument & went  
direct for the main point.

May I venture to sympathize  
with you? Mr. Darwin I know  
was the greatest scientific  
man the world ever saw, and  
I am sure he was also one  
of the best & kindest of men.

One of the earliest of his efforts  
was to write to the Government  
on my behalf, when I met with  
an accident that will lay me  
by for some years.

Ever yours sincerely  
Henry B. J. Skertchley

P.S. I think this is the only letter of any public  
interest that I possess.