

P.S. - We are going from home for a month on Tuesday next, the 18<sup>th</sup>, during which time if you should like to write my address will be - Forest Heath, Lyndhurst Woods.

Belmont

Bath

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

My dear Sir,

I am happy to say that I have been able, without any assistance, to complete an entire copy of all your Father's letters to me, - which used to go <sup>by rail</sup> at the same time as posting the letter. I assure you it has been an labour of love, for your Father memory is very dear to me. Indeed his friendliness towards me, as manifested in some of the letters, was so marked, that I felt some reluctance in repeating all he has said, in the copying of them. - In these letters especially which have reference to that part of the Zoology of the Beagle, the Fish, which I undertook.

only at his earnest request, — I think,  
from a kind feeling, he rather overestimated  
my fitness for the task. — However, I  
determined — after some thought and  
deliberation — to copy them exactly as they  
stood in every respect, leaving it to you  
to deal with them as you think best. —  
I place them entire in your hands, and  
you may make any use of them you choose,  
— publishing any, or as many as, — you  
judge to be serviceable in a Biography  
(or writing papers &c you think better to be left out)  
of your distinguished Father; — In some  
cases I have put a heading to the letter  
explaining of the matter to which they  
chiefly relate; — to others, especially the  
first, I have appended Notes — one or  
two of an anecdotic character — which

I thought might interest. I cannot call to my recollection distinctly - this so many years ago - any thing further, as to his college life, than what I have stated here, or stated previously in a letter to Sir J. Hooker, which I dare say he has shown you. — It was my wish & endeavour to place the letters in the same order of time in which they were written; but I am not quite sure this has been carried out in the case of two or three of the earlier ones, & your father in his letter sent unpageably omitted the date, & regards time, altogether; and hardly ever mentioned the year, which I have put in myself, where I could, from internal evidence, or my particular

circumstance which enabled me to fix it.  
Your Father's death was not the most light,  
Especially when overall, as he apologizes in  
one of the letters; - and, as I proceeded in the  
copying, I found it were would have done  
to ~~have~~ commit the task to others who were  
not familiar with his writing, - & quite  
ignorant of the subjects to which they  
relate, relating the use of some Nat.  
Hist. Terms, &c. very difficult to decide.

You had better read the letter before  
making any lengthened reply to this, as they  
may suggest remarks - or some further  
copies you would wish to make, and  
I shall be most happy to give - as far as  
I am able - any additional information  
you may require. - At present I would  
suffice at present just to announce the safe  
arrival of the letter. - Believe me -

Sincerely yours  
J. Blomfield.