

THOS. WHITELEGGE.
RUSSELL ST. HURST
Ashton-u-Lyne

Ashton-u-Lyne
June 22/82

Dear Sir

Having seen from Nature that you desire all your late
Father's Letters. I requested Mr W. Horfall of Manchester
to Ask you when he wrote if you wanted the originals.
He replies that you want the Letters themselves. I am
sorry I have not kept copies of my own Letters
but I shall be able to give you the particulars
in regard to each letter. The first dated April 28th 1878
refers to *Geum rivale*. I sent your father specimens
with the pistils aborted and I asked if they were
examples of Andro-Monoecious flowers. I suggested
that it might be a sudden variation or a
Monstrosity. I may say that the flowers were very
immature. only one or two open in those that
I saw and those sent. I afterwards found it
in abundance with flowers as stated above.
I see from Nature that H. Miller has found
a continental species of *Geum* to be Andro-
Monoecious. Thus confirming the fact of such occurring
in the genus. Letter 2nd Dated May 12/78 This is in
Answer to a question whether he had ever seen any
mention of any species of *Ranunculus* with

Please Return the Letter with

page 6
gyno-dioecious flowers. I sent Specimens of *Ranunculus*
acris in this condition to him. In which the stamens were very
rudimentary and petals small. N^o 7 The letter you wrote at his
request relates to *Ranunculus repens* which I found
in the same condition as *R. acris* but not so well marked
from its rarity and the stamens and petals only being
partly reduced in size. I suggested that it was in a
state of transition from being strictly hermaphrodite
to gyno-dioeciousness. Letter 4 July 16th 1782 This is in reference
to *Stachys germanica* which I detected with gyno-
dioecious flowers. And I suggested that it was more
modified than any other plant I knew. I also
mentioned *Ranunculus bulbosus* as having the
same kind of flowers as the two preceding
species above mentioned. I can assure you that it is
from reading your fathers works that I was induced to take
up the study of science. And I feel very proud to possess
the letters I received from him. And I may venture to say
that the observations made after his first letter to me
were mainly due to the very kind wish of success which
it contained. My sorrow ^{was} ^{unlike} I can assure you when I heard
of his death. and many a ^{time} I have defended his character
against the attacks of Bigots. I am your humble
and Obedient servant Tho Whitelegg