

Williamson

Victoria University
Manchester June 3rd 1882

My Dear Sir

I fear that few of
your Dear Father's commun-
ications to me would be of
any value to you even if
I had them. They were chiefly
brief notes of a very business-
like kind. Scientifically speaking
and as I had a very large
circle of autograph-hunting
friends capable of appre-
ciating them I gave them
away freely - reserving
a few for my own album

of autographs. I send you
three or four from one of
which you will see that
I enjoyed the high privilege
of communicating with him
from 1846. I think the
most interesting note is that
dated Nov 18-1880. received after
we sent up the deputation
from our Union of Yorkshire
Naturalists. The modesty
which led him to value
so highly as he did a
deputation from a body
of ^{real} working naturalists, ^{but}
most of whom are small
men of humble & modest

position is to me a remarkable evidence
of what both you and I know was
so characteristic of him. That the tribute
then paid to him was genuine and pon-
derous - I knew to be the case because
I presided at the meeting where it was
proposed to be offered - but it emanated
from the men themselves and not
from me - Your father knew this -
and it was this fact apparently

That led him to appreciate
the tribute as much as, if
not more than, if it
had emanated from
the scientific big-wigs of
the world.

You have a serious &
anxious task before you.
It appears to me that a son
scarcely dares to put such a
father in his right position.
I was telling my family at
breakfast this morning that
your life cannot and will
not be the final biography
of your father because you
cannot and dare not
rear his pedestal so the

elevation which it must
one day reach. It can
only be a century hence,
when the all embracing
comprehensiveness of the
Darwinian philosophy has
become patent to the entire
civilised world, that some
future biographer will
be able to use your
life as a store-house
of facts - which he can
store in the Pantheon in
which the subject of his
biography must be
permanently enthroned.

Excuse - My Dear Sir
This wordy tribute to
the memory of ~~some~~
for whom you forty
years I have entertained
such feelings of reverential
affection. And with
respectful sympathy for
your mother - your brother
& yourself for your in-
calculable loss -

I am ever

Truly yours

W. C. Williamson

Francis Darwin Esq