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29, DELAMERE TERRACE,
WESTBOURNE SQUARE, W.

Aug. 20. 1882

Dear Sir

I do not know whether
I may venture to hope that you
recollect our meeting at the
Savile, or ~~of~~ our luncheon in company
with our common friend Mr. Dow-
Smith? At all events, I shield
myself under that slight introduction
in taking the liberty of writing
to you. I am the London repre-
sentative of the "Century Magazine"
(which used to call itself "Scribner's").
Mr. Alfred Wallace is writing for
us an article on your father's

system of work, a sort of
historical sketch (as I take it
to be) of Mr. Darwin's intellectual
processes in the evolution of his
great discovery. It is a great
part of the plan of the magazine
to illustrate its articles in the
best and most refined style
possible, and in this connection
I have to ask your two
favours.

1. In the first place, we
desire to engrave as a portrait
to the number in which Mr.
Wallace's article appears, the
very best likeness of Mr. Darwin

which can be secured. I have
heard Mr. Deir-Smith ^{spoke} of one
which you or your brother took
at Down, and my intimate
friend Miss Arabella Buckley
speaks with much enthusiasm of
one which I take to be the
same. Is it possible that you
will favour us so far as to
lend us this to be engraved?

2. I have further to
ask you if you will allow
the distinguished water-colour
painter, Mr. Alfred Parsons, who
will call on you with a formal

introduction join me, to make
a sketch of your house for
the same purpose?

I hope you will pardon
me for intruding on you in
this way, and that my
requests may not prove to
be very troublesome.

Believe me to be

Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

Edmund Gosse

Francis Darwin Esq. F.R.S.
et et.