

Middletown

July, 1882.

HUDWORTH COTTAGE,  
CASTLE EDEN,  
CO: DURHAM.

My dear Sir  
On the 24<sup>th</sup>  
ult. I spent an  
hour with the  
Rev. C. P. Sigleton  
at his house  
at Thoresbury,  
& had some  
conversation  
with him respect-  
ing your honou-  
red & lamented  
Father. He clearly  
remembers your  
Father's school-days.

They were great  
friends when  
together at Her-  
bery school, &  
Brighton distinctly  
recollects your  
father coming to  
him one day &  
saying, - "What do  
"you think, Bright-  
"ton? My mother  
"has been show-  
"ing me how  
"by looking into  
"a flower, I can  
"tell what its  
"nature is." This  
 struck me as  
peculiarly inter-

estiny, as evidently  
marking the  
early dawn of  
intelligence in-  
quiring into the  
secrets of Nature  
and when the  
work of that labor-  
ious & wonder-  
fully furnished  
life was, <sup>almost</sup> decided  
your dear Father  
wrote on a post-  
card, to my  
friend the Rev.  
Geo. Heeslow,  
under the date  
of 23 July, 1881;

"I thank you sincerely  
"sincerely for your  
"card with its  
"information.  
"It is not probable  
"that I shall ever  
"again compile  
"facts & discuss  
"difficult subjects  
"so I hope that  
"others may  
"make use of  
"your facts." This  
"card now surmounts  
"a very large &  
"valuable collection  
"of acetographs,  
"I regard it as  
"a very precious  
"memento. I never  
"saw

saw your Father  
alive, but - I had  
the unreluctantly  
satisfaction of  
taking part in  
the procession at  
his funeral, &  
his photograph  
adorned my  
drawing-table.

I send on separate  
sheets copies of  
two other letters  
of Mr. Darwin's  
which are far  
pressed into an  
autograph album.  
I fear, however,  
that they will

be of little or no  
use to you. That  
addressed to my-  
self has reference  
to the remarkably  
<sup>clean</sup> conscientious  
habit (if I may  
use the expression)  
of my little  
macaw (Ara  
hahni), in brack-  
ing to the <sup>extreme</sup> edge  
of a table, & some-  
times overbalancing  
himself in doing  
so, before ejecting  
the feces.

Please allow  
me, through an  
unknown stranger,

to express the pleasure  
which it gave me  
to read of your  
admission as  
a Fellow of the  
Royal Society,  
a Society which  
has been honoured  
by reckoning  
among its Fellows  
your immediate  
proprietors for  
three generations  
past.

Yours very  
faithfully  
R. Norton Hiddell

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I happen today  
to have addressed