

(FACSIMILE.)

Feb 3^d. 1875

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT.
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

Dear Sir

I received this morning a copy
of your work "Entic Wigen";
either from yourself or from
your publisher; & I am
greatly obliged for it. - I
had, however, before bought
a copy & had sent the new
one to my best Librarian, the
of the Royal Soc^y. - As I
am a very poor German scholar
I have as yet used my abstract

40 pages, but there
have interested me
in the highest degree.

Your remarks on fixed &
variable species deserve
the greatest attention;
but I am not at
present quite convinced,
that there are such
independent of the conditions
to which they are subjected.

I think you have done great
service to the principle
of revolution, which we
both support, by publishing
this work. I am to

now glad to read it,
as I had no time to
read Wiggins' great &

tedious volume. - With your

best thanks for to know
what you have done me, &

with the greatest respect

I remain Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

C. L. Davis

DOWN, BECKENHAM, KENT, S.E.

September 9th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,

I lately received, but I do not know by whom sent, a copy of your "Darwin'sche Theorie,"* and I hope that you will allow me to express the admiration and interest which it has excited in me. I must also thank you very sincerely for the manner in which you speak of my works. I am well aware that your generosity leads you to form *much* too high an estimate of what I have done; but it is deeply gratifying to receive the sympathy of so experienced an observer as yourself. As I am a very poor German scholar I have as yet read only a portion; but I have already found many observations and incidental remarks of especial interest to me.

The case of the male silver pheasant who was rejected by the females when despoiled of his ornaments will be very useful to me to quote in what I am now writing. I wish you had specified a little more in detail in what manner the plumage was injured. If you have yourself observed any analogous facts with mammals or birds, and would be so obliging as to communicate them, I should feel particularly grateful.

Pray believe me, dear Sir, with my best thanks and sincere respect,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) CHARLES DARWIN.

P.S.—I will venture to trouble you with one other question on the chance of your having bred last year the *Pavo spiciferus*. I am very anxious to know whether the spurs in this species are developed earlier or later in life, or at about the same period, as in the male of *Pavo muticus*.

It would be necessary to compare birds of the two species hatched last summer, for the spurs are quite small during the first year.

* Compare chapter VI. of this volume.

DOWN, BECKENHAM, KENT,
RAILWAY STATION ORPINGTON, S.E.R.

February 3rd, 1875.

DEAR SIR,

I received this morning a copy of your work "Contra Wigand," either from yourself or from your publisher, and I am greatly obliged for it. I had, however, before bought a copy, and have sent the new one to our best Library, that of the Royal Society. As I am a very poor German scholar I have as yet read only about 40 pages, but these have interested me in the *highest* degree.* Your remarks on fixed and variable species deserve the greatest attention; but I am not at present quite convinced that there are such independent of the conditions to which they are subjected. I think you have done great service to the principle of evolution, which we both support, by publishing this work. I am the more glad to read it, as I had not time to read Wigand's great and tedious volume. With my best thanks for the honour which you have done me, and with the greatest respect,

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CH. DARWIN.

* Compare chapter V. of this volume.