

LETTERS OF CHARLES DARWIN.

ADDITIONS TO MEMORIAL COLLECTION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, JUNE 3.

Professor Henry Fairfield Osborne, President of the American Museum of Natural History, who has been actively interested for some years in the movement to restore Down House, and has been co-operating with the donor, Mr. Buckston Browne, in the collection and preservation of Darwiniana of all kinds, especially such as existed on this side of the Atlantic, has succeeded, after 18 months' correspondence, in securing from the Muller heirs in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the originals of an entire series of letters from Charles Darwin to the great German naturalist, Dr. Johann Friedrich Theodor Muller (better known as Dr. Fritz Muller). Francis Darwin wrote of him: "My impression is that of all his unseen friends Fritz Muller was the one for whom Charles had the strongest regard."

These letters, which were chiefly written from Down House between August, 1865, and January, 1882, to Muller, then living at Blumenau, Santa Catharina, Brazil, have been lying in the safe of Dr. C. T. Stewart, President of Mackenzie College, Sao Paulo, and are stated by Mr. L. V. Coleman, Director of the American Association of Museums, to be in excellent condition. They are now on their way to the American Museum of Natural History here, and Professor Osborne will send them to be added to the Memorial Collection at Down House.

Of the 58 Muller letters, seven are quoted in whole or in part in Vol. II. of "The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin," and 30 are quoted in whole or in part in Mr. Francis Darwin's "More Letters of Charles Darwin," but the remaining 21 have never before been published. Professor Osborne also proposes to present to the collection as a special personal contribution the original letter from Darwin to Huxley written to accompany the first copy of "The Origin of Species," which came into his possession through Leonard Huxley. He has invited Professor E. B. Poulton, of Oxford, to represent the American Museum of Natural History at the opening of Down House, and has appointed Dr. Joseph Leidy, of Philadelphia, nephew of the anatomist of the same name, to represent the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.
