

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-25591-2 - The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Volume 5: 1851-1855

Edited by Frederick Burkhardt and Sydney Smith

Excerpt

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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES DARWIN 1851–1855

To John Edward Gray [January 1851]¹

My dear Gray

I will be here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock,² & as *I have very much to do* will you kindly oblige me by having Spengler on Cirripedia³ (which you once showed me) ready for me.— Also I want to look at the rest of the sessile Cirripedia in the Collection,⁴ for praise be to Heaven, I have finished Balanus.⁵ And Lastly could I see M^r Cocks' collection?⁶

Forgive this trouble | yours

AL

British Museum (Natural History) (Department of Zoology Archives, Foreign Letters 2: 57)

¹ Dated from CD's reference to having 'finished Balanus' (see n. 5, below).

² CD recorded the expenses of three trips to London during January and February 1851 (Classed account book (Down House MS)). It has not been possible to identify which trip was the one mentioned in the letter.

³ Spengler 1790. CD cited this work in *Fossil Cirripedia* (1854) and in *Living Cirripedia* (1854).

⁴ CD had requested permission from the trustees of the British Museum to borrow the Cirripedia collections (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter to J. E. Gray, 18 December 1847).

⁵ CD's 'Journal' entry for 30 December 1850 reads: 'finished Balanus & Pachylisma' (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, Appendix 1).

⁶ William Pennington Cocks, Cornish surgeon and collector. Cocks donated a small collection to the British Museum in 1849, which included specimens of *Balanus tintinnabulum* (see de Beer 1958, p. 93 n.). This species is extremely variable, which is perhaps why CD wished to examine Cocks's collection (see *Living Cirripedia* (1854): 196).

To John Mumford¹ 1 January 1851

Received of M^r Mumford, three Pounds five shillings being the proceeds of the Lecture,² for the Down Coal & Clothing Club.—³

C. Darwin

Down Jan 1st 1851.

The Royal Society (LUB: D17)

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January 1851

¹ Master of the free school for boys in Down (*Post Office directory of the six home counties* 1851).² This letter is preserved in the Lubbock Papers at the Royal Society and refers to a lecture given by John William Lubbock. An entry in the Down Coal Club honorary subscriptions book (Down House MS) for 1850–1 reads: ‘Sir. J. Lubbock proceeds of Astronom. Lecture [L]3. 5[5.]’.³ CD was treasurer of the club from 1848 (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter to John Innes, [8 May 1848], n. 2).

To James de Carle Sowerby 21 January [1851]

Down Farnborough Kent

Jan 21st

My dear Sir

I am much pleased with the Plates.—¹ You will at first think the *Corrigenda* heavy, but $\frac{4}{5}$ ^s of them require a *mere touch* of your graver: I think I have made *clear* my instructions, & have tryed to write well.— I send back a very few drawings, & 3 specimens in *tin-box by Post with this*.— Only one figure will require a weighty alteration, viz P. *rigidus*.² Nevertheless, I hope that you will look over your Figures carefully for I saw a good many *little* blemishes; & the Plate is not very clean.—

The few reversed figures are unfortunate.—

Will you oblige me by sending me a duplicate copy of Plate II *with my lettering* copied on it.—³

Please copy correctly on Plate all my figures & Letters, as they stand.

Please *observe* that I must have all these first *copies* & *my Corrigenda notes* returned when you send me the Revised Plates.—

Allow me to earnestly beg you to save me further anxiety & let me have the 5 revises pretty *soon*.—⁴

At same time, please let me know what I owe you for the drawings of some of the figures;⁵ making these must have saved you some trouble, I hope, in the Engraving. I cannot say how I rejoice at the immediate prospect of finishing this job, & returning the specimens to the owners.

Your's Sincerely | C. Darwin

American Philosophical Society (Getz 1386)

¹ Sowerby, artist to the Palacontographical Society, was preparing the plates for *Fossil Cirripedia* (1851).² *Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): Tab. IV, fig. 7.³ *Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): Tab. II, the second of two plates devoted to species of *Scalpellum*.⁴ For CD's earlier complaints about Sowerby's dilatoriness, see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letters to J. de C. Sowerby.⁵ In *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter to J. de C. Sowerby, 10 September [1850], CD instructed Sowerby to keep a record of extra work not properly chargeable to the Palacontographical Society. However, CD's Account book (Down House MS) has no record of any payments to J. de C. Sowerby. See also letter to J. de C. Sowerby, 19 February [1851], which indicates that Sowerby did not request payment.

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January 1851

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To Robert Fitch 24 January [1851]

Down Farnborough Kent

Jan 24th

My dear Sir

At last I have the great happiness to be able to say that I have finally compared your specimens with Proof-Plates & have at last done with them. I thank you once again very sincerely for your very long loan of them:¹ they have been of the greatest use to me.—² *None* have been in the least injured in passing through M^r Sowerby's hands.— You will remember that some were injured in first coming here & that with your permission I removed several from the Chalk.—³ I am certain, that they are scientifically in a more valuable state than when sent, though some are not so ornamental.—

I this morning packed up about half, each one or two spec^s in a separate pill-box, so that none will be injured I hope. All will have name on lid or on separate label: some valves are folded up in silver paper.— If I do not hear to the contrary before Wednesday morning I will send all in a Box to M^{ess} Barclay 95. Farringdon St.— —

If you sh^d generously be inclined, as you once hinted, to give me any duplicate specimens, I w^d gladly accept them *for the British Museum*, to which I intend giving all my own collection & all that I can collect.⁴

Once again with my sincere thanks | I remain | dear Sir | Your's very faithfully
| C. Darwin

Norwich Castle Museum (Natural History Department)

¹ CD had held many of Fitch's specimens for over a year. See *Correspondence* vol.4, letter to Robert Fitch, [December? 1850].

² In the preface to *Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): v, CD wrote: 'To Mr. Fitch, of Norwich, I here beg to return my thanks, for having allowed me to keep, during several months, his unrivalled collection of Cirripedia from the Upper Chalk of Norwich,—the fruit of twenty years' labour.' Fitch had supplied type specimens of *Scalpellum fossula*, *S. maximum*, *Pollicipes angelini*, *P. striatus*, and *P. fallax*.

³ See *Correspondence* vol. 4, letters to Robert Fitch, 10 January [1850], 15 January [1850], [23 January 1850], and [6 February 1850].

⁴ Withers 1928-53, which discusses the cirripedes presented to the British Museum by CD, does not list any specimens from Fitch. According to Withers 1928-53, 2: 185, Fitch's collection, including specimens described by CD, is in the Norwich Castle Museum.

To the Palaeontographical Society¹ [before 31 January 1851]

4. Read a letter from M^r Darwin Resolved, That Labels be printed applicable to the backs of each Number of the Monographs already issued to the Members & also to those forthcoming

Palaeontographical Society minute book, British Geological Survey

¹ The letter has not been preserved. The text given here is taken from the Palaeontographical Society minute book.

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February 1851

To J. de C. Sowerby 10 February [1851]

Down Farnborough Kent

Feb. 10th

My dear Sir

I like the looks of the Plates now they are complete; but I see several of my corrections have not been fully attended to; I presume that they required too extensive changes.

All the Plates can be printed off, except I, of which I am sorry to say I *must* see another revise, as soon as you can:—I send the old Proof & my instructions; & by this you will see the little alterations required in Fig. 9.—¹ The more important one, is in Fig 7. (a) & (b) and (f) and (g) all require alterations.—²

In (a) & (b) it is only the upper part which are bad; you have falsely given the appearance of a great central & two great marginal broad ridges.

In (g) (& I did not notice this error before) you have represented a great central ridge, *which does not exist*, the central ridge is barely larger than all the other small longitudinal ridges or lines.—

In (f) the *whole* surface is *striated* as represented, but there is no trace of one line or ridge larger than the others; & where I have put the red crosses, you have made one conspicuous ridge or fold; this must be obliterated.—³

Thanks for the corrections in lettering in Plate II: please see that this is corrected. as I have not put it.

When the Revise of I. is sent me: please return me the specimens you have of *S. magnum*, *undulatus* & *P. rigidus*⁴—in the **wooden** or **tin** Box.—⁵

Your's very faithfully | C. Darwin

P.S.— | If you so require, I will send up specimens of *S. arcuatum* ie of Fig 7. in Pl. I.—

American Philosophical Society (Getz 1388)

¹ The figure is of the valves of *Scalpellum simplex* (*Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): Tab. I).

² Fig. 7 is of the valves of *Scalpellum arcuatum*.

³ The figure still retains a ridge, although CD appears to have been satisfied with Sowerby's revision (see letter to J. de C. Sowerby, 19 February [1851]).

⁴ *Scalpellum magnum*, *Pollicipes undulatus* (a synonym of *Scalpellum solidulum*), and *P. rigidus*.

⁵ CD was anxious to avoid any damage to his borrowed specimens. He had previously had specimens broken in transit (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letters to Robert Fitch, 10 January [1850], 15 January [1850], [23 January 1850], and [6 February 1850]).

To J. de C. Sowerby 13 February [1851]

Down.
Feb. 13th

My dear Sir

Many thanks for all the care you wish to take. I enclose *two* boards with specimens— you will see the central ridge is very little larger than the other

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longitudinal striæ, & that there are no marginal lateral main ridges as in some other species.— I send also the Scutum.— Attend to the Section of the Carina.—¹

It is unfortunate, but I observe that the figures which have given most trouble are those of which drawings were made!

With thanks | Yours sincerely | C. Darwin

P.S. When convenient you can let me know what I am indebted to you—

P.S. All the specimens can perhaps be put together in the present Box & sent to the Geological Society, informing me of them as soon as sent there.—

American Philosophical Society (Getz 1389)

¹ The references are to parts of *Scalpellum arcuatum* (*Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): Tab. I, fig. 7) to Sowerby's engravings of which CD had requested alterations (see preceding letter).

To William Jackson Hooker 17 February [1851]

Down Farnborough Kent

Feb. 17th

My dear Sir William

You will no doubt like to see the enclosed letter of your son,¹ which, whenever perfectly convenient you can return to me.— I am heartily glad to think that he will pretty soon now be at home again.² What work he will have on his hands; it is enough to make one fear to think of it. Everyone will, I suppose, be quite astonished to hear of the Oaks & Birches of the Tropics;³ it strikes me as almost disheartening; almost as bad as if some geologist were to find Tertiary shells in a Silurian formation.— Falconer's conduct is enough to make one swear at him.⁴

Pray believe me with my respects & kind remembrances to Lady Hooker: | Your's very sincerely | C. Darwin

Cleveland Health Sciences Library (Robert M. Stecher collection)

¹ *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter from J. D. Hooker, 26 November 1850.

² Joseph Dalton Hooker had spent three years botanising in India and was at this time on his way back to England. He arrived in England on 25 March, having left Calcutta on 7 February (L. Huxley ed. 1918, 1: 332).

³ *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter from J. D. Hooker, 26 November 1850. J. D. Hooker had found that oak and birch trees were common in the tropical valleys of India, facts that he considered 'disturb our preconceived notions of the geographical distribution of the most familiar tribes of plants, and throw great doubt on the conclusions which fossil plants are supposed to indicate.' (J. D. Hooker 1854, 2: 336 n.).

⁴ Hugh Falconer, superintendent of the Calcutta botanic garden, had neglected to forward J. D. Hooker's mail (*Correspondence* vol. 4, letters from J. D. Hooker, 26 November 1850 and 6 and 7 April 1850).

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February 1851

To J. de C. Sowerby 19 February [1851]

Down Farnborough Kent

Feb. 19th—

My dear Sir

The Plate will now do very well;¹ & I am much obliged for all the trouble you have taken, & congratulate you that I can cause no more.

The specimens all arrived quite safe: I thank you for having registered them which I did not think of, & I return you in stamps the Cost.—

With respect to what you say about the payment of the drawings is exceedingly liberal; but on the other hand, the drawings, though no doubt they facilitated the engraving, must have put you to some extra trouble; did you include this trouble in your estimate to the Pal. Soc.? because if not, *I must beg* you, to make some charge to me, for I should be sorry to take an unfair advantage of your liberality. On the latter view, whenever convenient, please to let me know what I am indebted to you.

Accept my thanks & believe me | Yours very faithfully | C. Darwin

P.S. | M^r Salter² tells me you have several *named* fossil Balani; if you could at any time get to these & lend them me, they might & probably would be of **great** service.³

New York Botanical Garden Library (Charles Finney Cox collection)

¹ See letters to J. de C. Sowerby, 10 February [1851] and 13 February [1851].

² John William Salter, who had been apprenticed to Sowerby in 1835 and was at this time assistant palaeontologist to the Geological Survey (Secord 1985).

³ Seven specimens from Sowerby's collection are listed in *Fossil Cirripedia* (1854).

To Samuel Pickworth Woodward¹ 3 March [1851]

Down. Farnborough Kent

March 3^d

My dear Sir

I fear that your patience will have been exhausted, but at last I am happy to say that I have finished & printed my monograph on the fossil pedunculated Cirripedes & am enabled to return you your specimens. I thank you very sincerely for their loan; they have been most useful to me.— Be careful in unpacking the boxes, that you do not lose the valves, now loose, in the cotton. All, except a few not characteristic valves, are named. The *Aptychus* (?)² reached me in the broken condition in which it is now returned, I am sorry to say. No other specimens were at all injured.—

With my repeated thanks. Believe me | My dear Sir | Yours very sincerely | C. Darwin

American Philosophical Society (B/D25.349)

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¹ The recipient is identified from an earlier letter that indicates that CD corresponded with Woodward about *Aptychus*. See *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter to S. P. Woodward, 21 March [1850].

² For CD's discussion of *Aptychus* and his reasons for not including the genus among the pedunculated cirripedes, as had Alcide Charles Victor Dessalines d'Orbigny in *Orbigny* 1849–52, 1: 254, see *Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): 3–5.

To William Harris¹ 4 March [1851]Down, Farnborough Kent
March 4th

My dear Sir

At last I have finished the last proof of my little monograph, & am enabled to return you your specimens with very many thanks. I hope that they will reach you quite safely. I have named two new species from your collection;² I have no doubt it contains several other new forms, but all your specimens are so young that I dare not attach names to them.³ I have enclosed a catalogue of such specimens, as I could venture even approximately to name.— One of the species described from your specimens viz. *S. tuberculatum*, is an unusually well-defined & interesting species.— You have but few specimens of it; otherwise I sh^d have begged for one or two to present to the British Mus. with the rest of my collection.—

Once again accept my best thanks & believe me, dear Sir | Yours very faithfully
| C. Darwin

The second species, described from your collection, *P. semilatus* is a unique specimen.—

British Library (Add. 42579: 233 4)

¹ Harris had lent CD several fossil cirripedes (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter to William Harris, 6 August [1850]).

² *Scalpellum tuberculatum* and *Pollicipes semilatus* (*Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): 43, 72).

³ Even the valves from the two species identified and named by CD were minute: he recorded that in Harris's specimens of *S. tuberculatum* the carina measured only 0.2 inches and the terga less than 0.15 inches (*Fossil Cirripedia* (1851): 43).

To Edwin Lankester, Ray Society¹ 4 March [1851]Down Farnborough Kent
March. 4th

My dear Sir

Will you be so kind as to lay the following request before the Council: Eight Plates were granted me, of which two were to be coloured; I now find my materials (in part owing to new specimens received since my former communication) require rather more illustration; on the other hand, I think I can do very well with only three figures all three in Tab. I. coloured; now would not the saving of the colouring of one whole Plate & the greater part of another pay for one other

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Plate; if so, I should esteem it a *great favour & assistance* if the Council would on these terms allow me nine Plates.—²

I now address myself to you privately to know whether there could be any objection to my having (if I find it requisite) a 10th additional Plate at my **entire cost**; & can you give me an *idea* what the printing off & Paper for an octavo Plate comes to.— If you cannot, will you tell me *how many copies* are printed off, & then probably Sowerby³ can tell me rudely what the total cost w^d be.—

Lastly, some weeks since I wrote to Sowerby to ask whether his estimate had been finally agreed to by the Ray Soc. & he answered me that he had *not* heard from you: I want in a very few weeks to begin engraving, so will you please arrange with him: Be so good as to observe that in accordance with your instructions, I have made the Plates rather fuller than were the skeletons lent to you; & I presume M^r Sowerby ought to be informed of this.—

An *early* answer as I am now daily at work with M.S. & arranging the Plates to my query about the 10th Plate at my own cost, & whether you **think** the Council w^d grant me the 9th, & lastly about M^r Sowerby's contract, would *very* much oblige me.—⁴

My dear Sir | Yours sincerely | C. Darwin

American Philosophical Society (Getz 1395)

¹ Lankester was secretary of the Ray Society. The Ray Society published *Living Cirripedia*.

² *Living Cirripedia* (1851) has ten plates; none is coloured.

³ George Brettingham Sowerby Jr, who engraved the plates for both volumes of *Living Cirripedia* (1851, 1854) and for *Fossil Cirripedia* (1854).

⁴ Lankester wrote 'Ans^d EL.' at the top of CD's letter, but his reply has not been located.

To John Wickham Flower 23 March [1851]¹

Down Farnborough Kent
March 23^d

My dear Sir

I sh^d have answered your note sooner, but I have been laid up with the Influenza.— Many thanks for the fossils sent; they are not new species, but one seems from matrix to be from a new formation.— I thank you for your most generous offer of fossils for the Brit. Mus.² I will show moderation in my selection: you can if you please leave the fossils at the Geolog. Soc. for I every now & then send there & pick up all parcels. Possibly I may be at the Anniversary tomorrow of Pal. Soc. & we perhaps may thus meet.—³

Very sincere thanks for your invitation to Park Hill;⁴ I should in truth much enjoy it, for in old days my greatest pleasure was the conversation of scientific men, but I find by dear-bought experience that I cannot visit anywhere, as the excitement invariably does me harm for days afterwards; therefore I in truth grieve to say I cannot accept your kindness.

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My dear Sir | Believe me | Yours sincerely | C. Darwin

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

¹ The date is based on an entry in CD's Health diary stating that he had influenza from 16 to 21 March 1851, and by the Palaeontographical Society's anniversary meeting, which, in 1851, took place on 24 March (Palaeontographical Society minute book).

² In accordance with the agreement CD made with the trustees of the British Museum at the outset of preparing his monograph, CD gave his collection, augmented by specimens donated by others, to the museum upon completion of his work (see *Correspondence* vol. 4, second letter to J. E. Gray, 18 December 1847).

³ According to Emma Darwin's diary, CD, Anne, and Henrietta Darwin went to Malvern on 24 March. CD may have intended to go to the Palaeontographical Society meeting on this day when passing through London on his way to Malvern.

⁴ Park Hill, Croydon, was Flower's home.

To William Darwin Fox [27 March 1851]

Malvern¹
Thursday

My dear Fox

In passing through London two days ago² I heard from Erasmus³ with sorrow of your Father's death.⁴ A few weeks since I had been much interested in hearing from Susan⁵ an account of your Fathers equable & apparently happy state, & of the surprising manner in which he retained his faculties & interests. In a note from Susan she expresses how very glad she now is at her last visit.— I grieve to hear that your health prevents you attending the Funeral: this was my case,⁶ & though it is only a ceremony I felt deeply grieved at this deprivation & you no doubt will feel this more.⁷ You have my sincere sympathy & very sorry indeed I am to hear that your health is not so good, even as formerly.

Hereafter, when *at leisure*, do let me have a line from you, my dear old Friend. I often think of our happy days at Cambridge; almost if not quite, the happiest part of my life & much associated in my memory with you.—⁸ Long continued ill-health has much changed me, & I very often think with pain how cold & different I must appear to my few old friends to what I was formerly; but I internally know that the inner part of my mind remains the same with my old affections.

Believe me, my dear Fox, I am & shall ever be your affectionate friend | Charles Darwin

I have brought my eldest girl here & intend to leave her for a month under D^r Gully;⁹ she inherits I fear with grief, my wretched digestion. I return in a day or two home.—

When next you write to any of your Family pray express my sincere sympathy for M^{rs} Fox¹⁰ & all your sisters.

Endorsement: 'March 29 /51'

Christ's College Library, Cambridge (Fox 78a)

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March 1851

- ¹ CD's Journal (Appendix I) records that he left Down for Malvern on 24 March 1851.
- ² See preceding letter, n. 3.
- ³ Erasmus Alvey Darwin, CD's brother. CD usually visited Erasmus when passing through London or attending meetings there.
- ⁴ Samuel Fox died 20 March 1851 at Rendalls, Hertfordshire (*Darwin pedigree*).
- ⁵ Susan Elizabeth Darwin, CD's sister, still residing at The Mount, Shrewsbury, was a close friend of Fox's sister.
- ⁶ For CD's inability to attend his father's funeral, see *Correspondence* vol. 4, letter from Catherine Darwin, [13 November 1848], n. 1.
- ⁷ Fox was a clergyman in the Church of England.
- ⁸ See *Correspondence* vol. 1 for CD and Fox's friendship at Cambridge.
- ⁹ CD had first been treated by James Manby Gully at his hydropathic establishment in Malvern in 1849. Anne Elizabeth Darwin, whose health had been failing since the summer of 1850 (*Emma Darwin* 2: 132), was to be left in Malvern under the care of her nurse, Brodie, and governess, Miss Thorley, and with Henrietta Darwin as a playmate. According to Emma Darwin's diary, Miss Thorley left for Malvern on 28 March. CD arrived back in London on Friday, 28 March, and did not return to Down until 31 March (*Emma Darwin* 2: 130 and 'Journal'; Appendix I).
- ¹⁰ Ann Fox, widow of Samuel Fox.

From Joseph Dalton Hooker [c. April 1851]¹Kew
Thursday

My dear Darwin

Many thanks for your letter just received, & its enclosure from Pickering—the list is instructive—I will copy & return it what I want is however, a catalogue of such Islands as *Elizabeth*, & *Pitcairn's*, which are very small & contain peculiar plants.² The total absence of peculiarity in the Coral Islets is suggestive, if taken in conjunction with the fact of their sinking—³ a peculiar plant on one such is perhaps the sole representative of what may have been a large genus Complete Flora's of several Islands in the various stages of depression, from the rocky original Mt. with its fringing reef, to the isolated coral speck in the ocean would give some good data.

The *Fitchia* of Elizabeth-Island⁴ reminds me of the lone man in Martin's⁵
<remaining page(s) missing>

I quite understand & sympathize with your Barnacles, they must be just like Ferns!⁶

AL incomplete
DAR 100: 164

CD ANNOTATIONS

0.1 Kew . . . plants. 1.4] *crossed pencil*1.5 a peculiar . . . depression, 1.7] 'But it shows that the same species existed on anterior Rocky islets.'
*added pencil**Top of first page: '20'⁷ brown crayon*