

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-01648-4- The Correspondence of Charles Darwin: 1871: Volume 19
Editors Frederick Burkhardt, James A. Secord, Janet Browne, Samantha Evans, Shelley Innes,
Alison M. Pearn and Paul White
Excerpt
[More information](#)

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES DARWIN
1871

To W. H. Flower [1871?]¹

Down. | Bromley. | Kent. S.E.

My dear Mr Flower

I am ashamed to say that I do not know the rules for admission to your museum.²

My son, the bearer of this, is now attending to anatomy & wishes much to inspect some of the preparations; will you therefore be so kind as to turn him loose, if permitted into the Museum.

Pray believe me | yours sincerely | Ch. Darwin

LS
B.J. Harrison (private collection)

¹ The year is conjectured on the assumption that the son mentioned in the letter is Francis, who studied to become a physician at St George's Hospital, London, after leaving Cambridge at the end of 1870 (F. Darwin 1920, p. 67; *The Times*, 19 December 1870, p. 6).
² Flower was conservator of the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons (*ODNB*).

To John Lubbock [1871 or later]¹

My dear Sir J. L.

All the inhabitants of this place hope that you will endeavour to induce the Post Office to give us better Telegraph communication.² At present we have to send 4 miles to Orpington; which is a great inconvenience & it is a still greater one that persons telegraphing here naturally direct to B. or B;³ & we consequently have to pay for 3 or 6 miles carriage, & much delay is caused.—⁴ The Authorities originally intended to give us a T., as the Box & apparatus was sent long ago to the Post-Office here.—⁵ As you well know, Down though a small, is a thriving place, well supplied with shops, & is a little metropolis for a large rural district.— We all hope that you will lay our case before the Post [Ath]

& I remain Dear Sir John | yours very sincerely | C. D.

Draft
DAR 96: 89

¹ The year is established by the references to Post Office telegraphs and the telegraph office in Orpington. The Post Office took over the telegraph system from the railway companies in 1870. A Post Office telegraph office was first recorded at Orpington Station in 1873, but may have existed earlier (*Post Office guide* 1873).
² John Lubbock was MP for Maidstone from 1870 to 1880 (*ODNB*).
³ Beckenham or Bromley.
⁴ The radius for delivery of telegraph messages free of charge to the recipient was one mile; for distances over three miles, the charge was 1s. per mile (see e.g. *Post Office guide*, January 1873, pp. 33–4).
⁵ Down did not receive a telegraph service until 1896 (Poulton 1896, p. 35).

From O. G. Rejlander [1871]¹

*Odd odds and ends*²

I was teaching my Wife³ how to “develope” a collodion photogr.—saying “now pour this evenly over the plate—there—now move the plate gently up & down”—
 — She moved her head to & fro but held the plate quite level— I saw her curls swaying She stood so for nearly a minute before I *awoke* her. I was so interested—
 but the hand was still— so intent she was in listening, that the connection betw. the hand and brain was suspended— in fact, the brain rocked without communicating the action to the hand— She often talks in her sleep—

“He looked very sheepish” = some one baffled etc When to express that the *exulting* party puts his thumb to his nose with extended fingers to imitate a long face.? (*The Origin of gestures*)

Some rub the palms of their hands briskly together at any success in joke or otherwise.

Complacently stroking the beard raising, the chin & lips

A searching look— half-shutting the eyelids fixing the eyes steadily on the object.

Indignation—challenging— Head erect, thrown back nostrils expanded—superciliary muscles projecting lips compressed—or if accomp. with contempt the corners of the mouth drawn down—the attitude ready for combat—

“He looked as dropped from the Skye” A vacant look, mouth open Arm hanging as lifeless at the sides—etc

“Crestfallen” A man sitting both hands on the knees head drooping—jaw drooping—the eyelids extended they eyes rather diverging being fixed on no object—

Aversion disgust— Much like the expr. of suddenly experience a bitter taste—

Mrs. W. told me of having several nights watched her husband go out of bed in the middle of the night⁴ (He was subject to epileptic fits) go downstairs and write a letter, in a good hand—*Upside down!*

—A Certain Officer On Parade, quite sober, (within my knowledge) sheathed his Sabre and walked on towards home—unconscious of breach of discipline—(He got one days arrest only)—

In writing—omitting words, habitually or letters—

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'Happy days': Mary and Oscar Gustaf Rejlander, *circa* 1872

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In reading—for the eye to catch letters lower down—

Astonishment simple = Head & neck extended mouth open as if the eyes & ears were not sufficient to receive the impress.—*Astonishment* with wonder—hands—showing the palms—raised the eyes wide open eyebrows arched, the mouth open but rounded for the interjection Oh. head thrown back—*Astonishment*—agreeable— Hands raised, as before, eyes dilated eyebrows raised head rather on one side slightly bent and a suppressed smile—*Contempt*: the body averted head turned to the object the eyes looking ascant—corners of the mouth drawn downwards with an expression about the nose as if something smelt disagreeably—*A Sneer*—a disguised contempt accompanied with an awkward forced smile on one side the face—The same by a female accompanied by a sudden puff of *whispering-breath* and a sudden jerk of her drapery on the side of the dis. object towards herself to blow away the “persistent” air and afraid that even the hem of her garment should be touched— male= poh! poh!

(Pleading, apologetically—“as stated”—only add a most defenceless attitude)

Spitting—defiance— at a person

d^o. contempt— on the ground

(Llamas spit their undigested food that raises a blister on the skin)

Showing the tongue by way of insult children & very low persons show it broadly & far out Grown up females do it pointedly & quickly

Silly people often play the tongue over the lower lip—

(Hunchbacked—club-footed child much squinting children more mischievous especially the squinting)

Furtive looks

The pouting child both lips out if angry—as well— the underlip only if sad—called the “dripping-pan”—

The sigh deep in thought & feeling paralysing the action of the breathing until a forcible vent is found in a Sigh—

A violent sigh from suppressed anger in man passive offensive derision *or spite*—by wrinkling the nose to some one—

Stamping the foot in anger or command (fem)

Snapping the fingers in contempt (male)

Striking the hand on a table—

Striking a closed fist in the palm of the other (female)

Speaking with the teeth clenched in a growl-like voice—(male)

Grief—the inner point of the eyebrows raised

Anger—the inner point of eyebrows depressed

The hands!!!

Raised over the head imploring palms out

Down at the sides—expostulating d^o

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extended Horizontally—Open to receive
 Fingers
 pointing with the thumb “over the left” also really in earnest
 forefinger most direct
 middle finger—common men
 Ring finger the same
 Little finger Children—Ladies and many well bred persons—
 Forefinger upright—perpendicly = warning
 Closed fist extended—threat—
 Forefinger to the side of the nose—knowing
 D^o to the forehead—thinking—with difficulty—
 Forefinger to the mouth = Silence
 Hand behind the ear = hearing
 Forefingers in the ear = not hearing
 One hand drawn smartly across the other palm means ‘*nothing*’
 Some people cannot hold the fingers still— Dying people have begun scratching
 the clothes just before going—
 Babies toes move with the fingers
 An uneasy cough—or cough to show (wanted) indifference
 A Whistle to gain assurance

Sympathy

Yawning (I could make my Dog yawn)
 Sick at sights
 The mouth watering at acids
 The teeth “set on edge” at the slip of the knife on a plate or filing a saw
 Smacking the lips

Tricks

Biting the nails
 sucking the thumb or the tounge
 Blinking—.

While reading keep moving the fingers in search of inequalities—
 Draw the air suddenly thro’ the nose
 The Scotch— Hm! Hm! = response
 Danish So-So
 Also a sucking noise = indeed or “dear oh me”
 Country-Engld AAh!
 Swedish jah! jah-ah!/?

The occupier Clark of the Shop of this Mansion⁵ has a bull-terrier which I had
 not seen before the other night (nor he me—) when (late) I passed the shop and the
 terrier ran at me head down— I was apprehensive of attack but he wagged his tail
 and sneezed with pleasure to recognise me— — How— by scent knowing me to be
 an inmate of the house— —

The other night I went into Alvarez’s Cig. Shop and the She-Cat there (opera Colonnade)⁶ was most anxious—as only a cat can be—for a male companion—I saw it—& having learnt some of their calls—I made the—endearing noise—of a Cat and up got her pelvis—down on her breast— ready—I repeated it several times to show the owner it was no accident

A Dog even a strange dog will generally repeat my Uffh! Uffh! being the first noise of *warning* of distant danger by dogs— My Dog could say my friends name, Hoof, when asked and if not saying it plainly repeat it—at my order—untill well pronounced he generally knowing when that was by jumping about, pleased, immediately

The brain of my clever Dog I have, carefully, compared to that of a Childs at one year and 3 months—not even to 1½ year— —(too long to argue)

Grangers Barndoor Cock who had two horns hanging at each side—artificially produced in a cruel way I have seen two—a man near Wolverhampton did it. The bone was laid bare on either side & then hartshorn & something else was rubbed over the bone.⁷

A child was lately brought to the Kings college that had the tail of a dog which it wagged like a dog. I think the whole lower part was that of a dog. Mr Dawson of K. College was my informant—⁸

DAR 189: 139

CD ANNOTATIONS

- 18.1 A Sneer] *tick in left margin, red crayon*
28.1 The pouting child] *ticks in left & right margins, red crayon*
35.1 Speaking with the teeth clenched] *tick in left margin, red crayon*
58.1 An uneasy cough] *tick in left margin, red crayon*
Top of letter] ‘by O. G. R. | 1871’ ink

¹ The year is established by CD’s annotation. CD had made contact with Rejlander by the end of March 1871 (letter to H. E. Darwin, 20 March 1871).
² CD had consulted Rejlander about taking photographs for *Expression*; Rejlander was interested in the expressive power of photography (*ODNB*).
³ Mary Rejlander.
⁴ Mrs W. and her husband have not been identified.
⁵ ‘Clark’ is written above ‘occupier’; he has not been identified. Rejlander lived at 1 Albert Mansions, Victoria Street, London (letter from O. G. Rejlander, 30 April 1871).
⁶ Alvarez has not been identified. The Opera Colonnade was in Regent Street, London.
⁷ The case has not been identified.
⁸ Dawson of King’s College has not been identified.

From C. H. Thiebout [1871]¹

I have the honour to announce to the English people and Sir *Charles Darwin* that after an exact examination of the several principles naturo-philosophical and philosophical who are founded by his strong mind that in the world as one of the fruits of his long scientific life those thoughts and datas he has given “for instance” in

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“the struggle for life” can be contemplated “a very new theory of the origin of senseless or foolish-illnesses and also of the origin of prostitution of the [fray] girls. Also is given in his works the way to a rapid and rational amelioration of the small condition of the persons who are affected by those illnesses and of the girls of small condition.”²

The several principles who are one of the arts of your philosophy are pronounced in a popular teach of this title”

Wetten van inwerking van twee Zenuwstelsels op elkander, of de
uitstooting der hoogstgeorganiseerden in den strijd des levens door
D^r. C. H. Thiebout.

Published. Holland. Utrecht. van der Post. Nieuwe Gracht.³ That is to say:

The laws of contact of two human nervous systems, or the expulsion of the highest organised in the struggle for life in the human Societys. by

D^r. C. H. Thiebout.

The principles are founded upon your works those of Hartmann in his “Philosophie des Unbewussten, Kant and Herbart.”⁴

The ways I have given to the amelioration of the condition of foolishness are given in my last works who I have given to D^r. van der Lith Utrecht, Holland.⁵

It is my not possible to send you an exemplar of my works notwithstanding it is my duty to write what is I believe one of the great fruits of your philosophy.

I early five years was instructor in natural science in Holland and now I am occupied with the great work to introduce your thoughts in the *medical klinik*.

You shall excuse my bad writing there the English is not my tongue, and I trust that your assistance to the matter will be in consequence with that what you have done for general development and honour of mankind.

with reverence | I am your young follower. | Thiebout.

My other works are: *The natural selection of genies*, Principles of the klinik of foolish-illnesses, Principles of empiric-psychology.⁶

DAR 201: 39

¹ The year is established by the publication date of Thiebout 1871 (see n. 3, below).

² Small condition: possibly Thiebout refers to poverty.

³ Thiebout 1871. Nieuwe Gracht (Nieuwegracht): new canal.

⁴ Thiebout refers to Eduard von Hartmann, Hartmann 1869 (Philosophy of the unconscious), Immanuel Kant, and Johann Friedrich Herbart.

⁵ Johan Peter Theodoor van der Lith.

⁶ Thiebout’s ‘Principles of empiric-psychology’ is Thiebout 1869; the other two titles have not been identified.

From William Turner [1871?]¹

Extract from a Paper on Hermaphroditism By D^r. Robert Knox in London Medical Gazette, January 12th, 1844—²

“I have often thought that certain organs found in the Mammalia, with whose functions we are not acquainted, and which seem to have a reference neither to the adult nor foetal condition, nor essential to individual life in any known animal, may be the remains of the organs required by that portion of the animal kingdom which has ceased to exist.³ In the composition of the skeleton of the antediluvian Sauria unusual combinations of structure are obvious: arrangements & forms of bone, with dimension and shapes, not only not familiar to us, but evidently of a nature differing widely from the present animal kingdom. It will be looked on, I fear, as too bold a flight of the imagination to conjecture that the plan of the present creation was included in the former: that the unexplained organs in animal bodies, and which are in as rudimentary, and so far as we know useless, were once developed, and formed, perhaps, important organs, in a race of animals which ceased at a time when the Earth’s surface became unfitted for their support”.—

DAR 178: 196

CD ANNOTATION

2.7 but evidently . . . support”.— 2.13] *scored pencil*

¹ The correspondent is established by the handwriting and by an early archivist’s note on the verso of the page; the date is conjectured from the same note.
² The quotation is from the *London Medical Gazette*, 12 January 1844, p. 477. The article it comes from was a memoir read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1827 and 1828.
³ CD had asked Turner about rudimentary organs in his letter to Turner of 14 December [1866] (*Correspondence* vol. 14). CD cited other works by Knox when discussing rudimentary organs in humans in *Descent* 1: 23 n. 26 and 28 n. 37.

From L. C. Wedgwood [January 1871]¹

Mary Owens $3\frac{1}{2}$ yr. old child has a habit of sticking out her lips when she feels shy, but as it is *not* a pout of sulkiness I do not know if you care about it.² She makes no sound. The lips do not seem to become tubular (that is the corners are not drawn together, or hardly.) The upper lip is stiffened and projected beyond the lower one, (tho’ both stick out to a certain xtent) the lips sometimes not quite closed.



I have stupidly mislaid your paper about it & cannot find it. If I have forgotten any points I hope you will let me know, if you care about it.

DAR 181: 57

¹ The month and year are established from the age of Henrietta Susan Owen (see n. 2, below); she was born 9 July 1867 (*Darwin pedigrees*, p. 11).
² Wedgwood refers to Mary Susan Owen and her daughter Henrietta; in *Expression*, p. 233, CD commented, ‘Some children pout when they are shy, and they can then hardly be called sulky.’

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From Francis Wedgwood to Emma Darwin [before 4 January 1871]¹*Barlston, | Stone, Staffordshire.*

My dear Emma

I will look after Charles's commission with a great deal of pleasure—² The field in which this house stands is old ridge & furrow & probably has been pasture time out of mind as it is called The Cow Hill in a plan I have 160 years old— Cow Hill must mean a pasture I think—. If Charles is not in a hurry however I will wait till it is eaten barer towards the spring— it was not half stocked last summer & so is so full of feg³ that the slope of the land is a good deal masked. If it is an object to Charles to have a very old pasture I remember 50 years ago in the Kings Park at Edinburgh between Arthurs Seat & Salisbury Crag⁴ a patch of ridge & furrow in the pasture which set me speculating about how it should ever happen that a patch in a place like that should have been ploughed— Perhaps Charles might have some zealous friend at Edinburgh that he could get to look at it. There is one thing to be considered however as to ploughed up pastures that they are not unlikely to date no longer ago than about 70 years when wheat was I think as high as a guinea a bushel paper currency of course. Has Charles any friend about Rugby— Almost all the old pastures there are ridge & furrow & much higher & wider ridges than in this country.

I am very glad you took pity on Mabel & asked her to join your Christmas party—⁵ it would make up to her the missing much such a jolly party at Pandyffryn where Rose & she were asked to go & dance & where Rose now is—⁶ it however has turned out not quite so jolly as was expected owing to somebody being kept away by somebody else's death— my information you see is not very accurate but names unless there is something concrete about them do not stick in one's head. The party breaks up on Tuesday & then Rose comes home but goes off again in the week to a ball at Uttoxeter, and on the 9th we go up to Town for our London season— We shall go to the South Kensington⁷ at first & look out for lodgings but I am not sure we should not do as well to stay there— it would save us bringing up a servant— Fanny is at Brighton at her old quarters The Grand Hotel where she has found some of her last years acquaintances (not the Greek Prince though)—⁸ The guests in one day varied from 150 to 60— perhaps the 150 was the Christmas complement— she says it is very cold there— I think it was nothing but the hopes of warmth & perhaps a little impatience of home when others were going away that made her go so if she finds it cold she will be glad to join us in Town on the 9th. I have been in solitary grandeur all last week for Amy is with the Kempsons & Godfrey & Cecil with Cecily—⁹ my solitariness however has been mitigated by going down to Emily's the first part of the time & their coming up here the last—¹⁰ I suppose it will be pretty much the same when Rose & I go to Town & leave Godfrey Amy & Cecil here. Cecil is to begin with a private tutor immediately—my schoolmaster from Etruria¹¹—a very good teacher & disciplinarian who is now that I have handed over the schools to the schoolboard in disponability—¹² By a good disciplinarian I do not mean a strong arm for the use of the cane but just the reverse— he kept excellent order in his school and never as

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January 1871

far as I believe even so much as boxed a boys ears—he had the rare knack of making boys obedient without punishment

I hope Henrietta is better— when I saw her in Town at Cumberland Place she did not look very well¹³

Best love to all— | your affect brother | F Wedgwood

DAR 181: 49

CD ANNOTATIONS

1.1 I will ... ploughed— 1.10] *crossed pencil*

2.1 I am ... punishment 2.26] *crossed pencil*

Top of letter: ‘old furrowed fields’ *pencil, circled pencil*

¹ The date is established by the relationship between this letter and the letter from Francis Wedgwood, 4 January 1871.

² For CD’s commission, see the enclosure to the letter to Archibald Geikie, 30 December 1871. CD was interested in the gradual obliteration of ridges and furrows in fields. See also *Earthworms*, pp. 292–7.

³ Feg: ‘grass not eaten down in the summer, that grows in tufts over the winter’ (H. Wedgwood 1859–[67], 2: 76; see also *OED*, under ‘fog’).

⁴ King’s Park is also known as Holyrood Park. Arthur’s Seat, the highest point in Edinburgh, is at the centre of the park, and the Salisbury Crags are to the west.

⁵ Wedgwood refers to his daughter Mabel Frances Wedgwood. According to Emma Darwin’s diary (DAR 242), she arrived at Down on 15 December 1870 and came down with the measles on 18 December.

⁶ Wedgwood refers to his daughter Constance Rose Wedgwood. Pendyffryn is a house near Penmaen-mawr in North Wales.

⁷ The South Kensington Hotel.

⁸ Frances Wedgwood, Wedgwood’s wife, spent as little time in Staffordshire with her husband as she could (B. Wedgwood and Wedgwood 1980, p. 291). The Greek prince has not been identified.

⁹ Wedgwood refers to his daughters Amy Wedgwood and Cecily Mary Hawkshaw, his son Godfrey Wedgwood, and Godfrey’s son Cecil; and to his niece Louisa Frances Kempson and her husband, William John Kempson.

¹⁰ Wedgwood’s son Clement Francis Wedgwood and his wife Emily lived nearby (B. Wedgwood and Wedgwood 1980, p. 291).

¹¹ Etruria was the Wedgwood factory in Staffordshire. The schoolmaster has not been identified.

¹² Disponibility: ‘condition of being at one’s disposal’ (*OED*).

¹³ Wedgwood refers to Henrietta Emma Darwin. Cumberland Place was the home of Hensleigh Wedgwood, Wedgwood’s brother.

To P. L. Slater 4 January [1871]¹

Down. | Beckenham | Kent. S.E.
Jan 4th

My dear M^r Slater

I am infinitely obliged about the Cynomolgus: I have struck out the whole passage.—² You men who do only or chiefly original work have an immense advantage over compilers, like myself, as you can know what to trust.—

I wish with all my heart I had thought of consulting you about woodcuts, & had known about your artist; but I thought Brehm’s drawings fairly good enough for my