THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES DARWIN
1879

From C. V. Smith [1879][1]

South West Pacific

Niua-fu or Good Hope Island which I presume to be the same as that Onouafu in "Coral Reefs" is entirely volcanic and has no reef whatever.[2] The shores are steep to. There is a salt water lake about 6 miles in circumference connected with the sea by a very narrow stream. The island is about 500 feet high. There are several craters and I was informed that some had very recently been in a state of activity. (June 1872)

Wallis Island is encircled. There are 11 islands, 7 of which are on the outer reef. Its native name is Uea[3]

Horn Islands comprising Fotuna and Alofa each have a distinct fringing reef. Fotuna is about 2500 feet and Alofa 1200 feet high.[4] I can give you no information regarding the depth of water except that there is a deep ship channel between the islands no soundings being obtainable with the hand line. The channel is barely a mile broad.

Mitchell Island to the south of the Ellice Group is a very low atoll with about 10 small islands on the reef.[5] We were unable to discover any entrance into the lagoon

"*Grand Cocal* was searched for in vain by HMS Basilisk and as all the local traders deny its existence, I cannot think it exists. It has long been marked doubtful on the Admiralty charts and the description leads me to suppose the island reported to have been S^{t}. Augustine[6]

Sapona or Edgecumbe Island (Otooboa of Dillon") has a barrier reef with a four fathom channel through it which leads into a harbour in the island itself.[7] There is also deep but uneven water generally inside the reef

Espiritu Santo and the *Banks' Islands* have reefs of the fringing kind as also have all the *New Hebrides* & *Torres Groups*.[8]

Indian Ocean

S^{t} Jean de Nova or Farquhar Islands is an undoubted atoll with 4 large & several smaller islands.[9] There is a channel into the lagoon at the N.W. side between the largest island and the Western reef. A coral bank of considerable extent stretches off the southern end of the atoll with 5 fathoms of water on it.

Aldabra is undoubtedly an upheaved atoll. The account in Horsburgh is very misleading as neither the red cliffs nor high forests were to be found.[10] It is entirely

composed of coral rock with a fine growth of mangroves enclosing an extensive but shallow lagoon. There is a narrow riband of 9 fathoms water running 3 miles into the lagoon from the N.W. corner.

Great Comoro is volcanic and about 8600 feet high.[11] There is a little fringing reef on the North & S.E. sides

The above islands were surveyed by H.M.S. Fawn last year on an inch scale so that doubtless charts of them will shortly be published by the Admiralty.[12]

The East Coast of Africa South of Mombas has a fringing reef and is itself composed of coral rock.[13] From Wasin to Punganis however there is a barrier of large coral reefs from 2 to 5 miles off shore with a deep channel inside having sometimes as great a depth as 20 fathoms. An Admiralty chart of Tanga Harbour and its approaches has recently been published by the Admiralty which will give a good general idea of the coast in that district.[14]

Chas V Smith | Lieut: HMS. Fawn

DAR 69: A61–2

CD annotation
Verso of last page: *tick blue crayon*

1 The year is established by the references to the surveying voyage of HMS *Fawn* and the publication of the resulting charts; see n. 12, below.
2 See *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 211; CD had described Onouafu, or Proby Island, as one of the islands of which he could find no distinct account. Niuafo'ou is the most northerly island in the kingdom of Tonga (formerly the Friendly Islands); it is a volcanic-rim island.
3 See *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 211. Wallis Island is surrounded by a barrier reef.
4 In *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 211, CD had referred to Alloufatou, or Horn island, as one of the islands of which he could find no distinct account. Futuna and Alofi, the Hoorn Islands, are remnants of an extinct volcano.
5 Ellice Islands: Tuvalu. Mitchell Island: Nukulaelae. Nukulaelae is now part of the nation of Tuvalu.
6 CD mentioned Gran Cocal, relying on Adam Johann von Krusenstern's account, in *Coral reefs* 2d ed., pp. 212–13. Smith was midshipman and then acting sublieutenant on HMS *Basilisk*, based at Australia, between 1872 and 1874 (*Navy list*). On the identity of Gran Cocal, as originally discovered by Europeans, with Niutao, Tuvalu, and the subsequent confusion over what the name referred to, see K. Chambers and Munro 1980. In 1872, the officers of the *Basilisk* searched for Gran Cocal north of Nanumanga, Tuvalu; when they failed to find it, the suggestion arose that the island had been confused with a reported shoal in the area between Nanumanga and Nanumea (St Augustine), Tuvalu (*ibid.*, p. 189).
7 CD mentioned 'Toupoua (Otooboa of Dillon)', one of the Santa Cruz islands, in *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 216. Peter Dillon explored the Santa Cruz islands in 1828 and 1829. Otooboa is now Utupua.
8 In *Coral reefs* 2d ed., pp. 215–16, CD wrote that the island of Espiritu Santo, and Banks Islands, had no reefs; in *ibid.*, p. 214, he wrote that the New Hebrides had fringing reefs. Banks Islands and the Torres Islands are in the northern part of Vanuatu; the central and south part of Vanuatu was formerly known as the New Hebrides. Espiritu Santo was the largest island of the New Hebrides.
9 See *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 246. The Farquhar Atoll is in the outer islands of the Seychelles.
10 CD cited James Horsburgh's *India directory, or directions for sailing to and from the East Indies, etc.* (Horsburgh 1836, 1: 176), for Aldabra in *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 244, and speculated that it might be an upheaved atoll, or the crater of a volcano. Aldabra is in the outer islands of the Seychelles.
11 CD mentioned Great Comoro Island (Grande Comore) in *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 245.

[12] Smith was lieutenant on the surveying vessel HMS *Fawn*. The charts (Indian Ocean islands off the North Coast of Madagascar surveyed by Commander WJL Wharton and the officers of HMS Fawn 1878: G252:1/2) are at the Royal Museums, Greenwich; they were drawn up in 1879. Wharton completed the survey in August 1878 (see *Correspondence* vol. 1878, letter from W. J. L. Wharton, 14 August 1878).

[13] Mombas: Mombasa, Kenya. See *Coral reefs* 2d ed., p. 248. Wasin: Wasini Island, now in Kenya. Punganis: Pangani, now in Tanzania.

[14] Tanga is now in Tanzania. Admiralty chart 663, Mansa and Tanga bays, is held at the National Archives, Kew; it was made in 1878 (*Catalogue of Admiralty charts, plans, and sailing directions* 1898, p. 136).

From James Torbitt [1879?][1]

1879 Seedling, Crossed in 1876 and again in 1878.[2] Growth was retarded by the unfavourable season, and arrested by the destruction of the foliage by the parasite.[3] Excepting under glass I have found no variety the foliage of which can resist the attack of the parasite.

AL incomplete
DAR 178: 151

[1] The year is conjectured from the reference to an 1879 seedling.

[2] Since 1876, Torbitt had been corresponding with CD about his attempts to breed a blight-resistant potato, and occasionally sending specimens (see *Correspondence* vols. 24–6). He previously sent seedlings (including an '1875 seedling') shortly before his letter of 26 June 1878 (*Correspondence* vol. 26).

[3] The year 1879 was exceptionally cold and wet (*Gardeners' Chronicle*, 27 December 1879, p. 820). In his letter of 4 November 1879, Torbitt wrote that his statement that all foliage of the current year's seedlings had been destroyed by the parasite was a mistake. The parasite responsible for potato late blight is *Peronospora infestans* (a synonym of *Phytophthora infestans*), a species of oomycete or water mould parasitic on the potato.

To Albert Günther 1 January 1879

Down, | *Beckenham, Kent.* | *Railway Station* | *Orpington. S.E.R.*
Jan^{y} 1. 1879

My dear Friend

I must thank you cordially for your most kind little note & I sincerely return your good wishes.—[1]

Believe me | Yours very truly | Ch. Darwin

Shrewsbury School, Taylor Library

[1] Günther's letter has not been found. The recipient is established by the provenance, a collection of letters to Günther at Shrewsbury School.

From Marius Koch 3 January 1879

Rotterdam
3 Jan. 1879.—

Dear Sir!

By the present I take the liberty to accost you on some grave subject, hoping you will forgive an indiscreet young man, who wishes to receive some counsels from the

celebrated foundator of the theory of the development himself.— I Studied since several years your works, "Descent of man" "the Origin of the species" etc etc & I am now one of your most diligent disciples & you can be assured that when I had time as much as I wished to have, I would do all my possible by writing & speaking to spread & to instruct your doctrine.— To my great regret I am merchant & have no much time! Nevertheless I use every moment and write sometime little articles.— The last one I wrote was titulated, "Men with tails" in which I spoken about the communications of some travellers, who had seen some men with this difformity & who heard about whole nations in the interior of New Guinea who possesses a tail & where every child who is borned without this ornament is died instantly!—[1] I don't say all those relations are true but I believe that this difformity is not *absolut impossible* and that a selection and a cruising of tailed individus can be the origin of a tailed people.— As I said above it is not the question if this people exists or not, but only if such a difformity is possible? Dear Sir will you be so kind now to write me your opinion in that subject & to say me if you have heard perhaps of one of your many correspondents about tailed men!

Wishing you a very happy year, I remain, after many thanks | your most obedient servant | M Koch

M. Koch | care off Koch & Vlierboom | Rotterdam[2]

DAR 169: 48

[1] For the story about people with tails on islands off the coast of New Guinea (now Papua New Guinea), see *The Times*, 29 December 1876, p. 4; it originally appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 October 1876, p. 3.

[2] Koch's parents were Ferdinand Koch and Johanna Cornelia Vlierboom; the firm of Koch & Vlierboom were East India merchants.

To Edward Frankland 4 January [1879]

Down, | *Beckenham, Kent.* | (*Railway Station* | *Orpington. S.E.R.*)
Jan. 4th

My dear Dr Frankland

About a month ago you were so very kind as to say that you would give us a Bottle of pure water to proceed with our experiment on the exudation of alkaline matter from leaves on growing plants.— You said that the water wd. be sent in about a week's time, & now a horrid fear has seized me that perhaps the water has been despatched & stolen under the impression that the Bottle contained Spirits.— I hope that they may merely have been forgotten or delayed—[1]

Forgive me for troubling you on this to me important matter & believe me | Yours sincerely | Ch. Darwin

Endorsement: '/79'
The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester (Frankland Collection)

[1] See *Correspondence* vol. 26, letter to Edward Frankland, 2 December [1878]; see also *ibid.*, letter to

Francis Darwin, [22 November 1878]. Evidently the water arrived or was re-sent; see letter to Edward Frankland, 8 February 1879. Neither Francis nor CD published on this subject.

From Mary Jung 7 January 1879

Sir,

A young austrian lady begs to allow of asking you a great favour. Endeavouring to get acquainted with the general principles and systims of the different sciences, I got the idea of possessing a little souvenir of the most celebrated men I know and so I shortly begun to make a collection of Autographes. I dont know a man, whoes opinion produced such a great revolution in this branche of science, a theory, which found such a general embracing, inspite the greatest efforts of refutation from other parts. I am partly submitted to your opinion and I remain doubting between your theory and the ecclasiastical dogma. When my reason agrees with your opinion, my heart stands to the latter and so I am in a continnual conflict with myself. I beg to excuse my speaking to you so freely, and I hope you will therefor not be unfavourable to me.

You would render *very very* happy by affording the request of honouring me with a single line, Yours | most thankfully and humbly | Mary Jung

Villa Jung | Salzburg, 7.1.79.

DAR 168: 94

From Carl Kraus 8 January 1879

Carl Kraus, | *Pardubitz, Bohemia, Austria.*
8th Jan. 1879.

Honoured Sir,

The letter you had dear Sir, the kindness to write me, has so agreeably surprised me, that I permit me testifying my gratitude; words, however, are too weak, to express what I feel for you.[1] I shall be happy to profit by every opportunity to give you a proof of my most esteem & veneration. Having the persuasion that you dear Sir, posess the largest interest for scientific publications, which bespeak the presumtive connection, between socialism and Evolution through natural selection, permit me to send inclosed essays, (supposing that you dear Sir, did not knowing this essays) of the excellent naturalist Charles Vogt, which this object has analyzed, with his notorious spirituously erudition.[2] The scientific world, shall be very happy, if they could hear the opinion of this object, on our illustrious natural philosopher Charles Darwin.

Begging to apologize for thus troubling dear Sir, and soliciting a continuance of your kind favour, I have the honour to be, honoured Sir, | Your respectfully admirer | Techniker[3] Carl Kraus.

Charles Darwin, Esquire | Down.—

DAR 169: 104

1 CD's letter to Kraus has not been found.
2 Kraus probably sent Carl Vogt's essay, 'Descendenz-Theorie und Socialismus' from the Vienna *Neue freie Presse*, 12, 14, and 19 December (Vogt 1878). There are clippings of the first two parts in DAR 226.1: 258–9 and DAR 226.2: 22. See also letter to Karl von Scherzer, 26 December 1879.
3 *Techniker*: a vocational title indicating expertise in engineering gained through practical experience rather than a university qualification.

From W. E. Darwin 9 January 1879

Bank, Southampton,
Jany 9 *1879*

My Dear Father.

£27.434. Consol. 4 percent L.N.W. Ry guaranteed stock at 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ worth
£28119.17

£6516. ordinary stock at 140 $\frac{1}{2}$ worth
£9154.19.1

£28,119.17
9154.19.1
£37274.16.1 present value
cost 23.592. .
£13,662.16.1 **Gain**

This is a fine increase in value and must make you feel proud.[1]

In these days consols are considered a far *readier* security than New 3 percents for Bankers to hold—. Do you mind my selling the £4000 New 3s I hold and buy £4000 Consols, I will send you the 3 months interest to make it straight.[2]

Things are all quite quiet & comfortable down here and the only possible danger of a run for us would be if one or two local Banks went to the dogs which is very unlikely.[3]

I was very glad to see that the Emperor of Prussia had confirmed your appointment to the Academy, though it shows what an autocratic country it is.[4] We expect Sara[5] tonight, not quite frozen I hope.

We have 3 inches of snow at Bassett.

It is Capital Horace being revived.[6]

Your affect son | W. E. Darwin

Cornford Family Papers (DAR 275: 70)

1 In February 1879, CD converted his Lancaster and Carlisle Railway stock, bought in 1850, into London and North Western Railway stock (CD's Investment book (Down House MS), pp. 49, 130, 146).
2 In CD's Account books–banking account (Down House MS), there is an entry under 'Bank Received' on 4 July 1879, 'Consols account of W. E. Darwin', £58 15*s*. Consols: consolidated annuities, consisting of several issues of stock, consolidated into one (Cordingley 1901).
3 On the banking crisis that took place in the last quarter of 1878, beginning with the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank, see M. Collins 1989.

[4] CD was informed of his election as foreign member of the Königliche Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences), subject to confirmation by the emperor, in November 1878 (*Correspondence* vol. 26, letter from Emil du Bois-Reymond, 7 November 1878). *The Times*, 7 January 1879, reported that the German emperor had confirmed the appointments of CD and of Richard Owen. The emperor of Germany was Wilhelm I.

[5] Sara Darwin was William's wife.

[6] Horace Darwin had been unwell but was improving (letters from Emma Darwin to H. E. Litchfield, [6 January 1879] and [12 January 1879] (DAR 219.9: 188, 189)).

To ? 9 January 1879

Down, | *Beckenham, Kent.* (*Railway Station* | *Orpington. S.E.R.*)
Jan. 9th 1879

Dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for your great kindness in having sent me four copies of your engraving, which arrived safely yesterday.[1]

The work seems to be, though I cannot pretend to be a judge, a very fine production, & I remain | Dear Sir | Yours Faithfully | Charles Darwin

Dr Mirko Majer (private collection)

[1] The engravings have not been identified.

To W. E. Darwin 10 January [1879]

From Mr. C. Darwin, Down, Beckenham.

Many thanks for answer.— Pray do whatever you like about the Consols.—[1] G. had a most prosperous visit at Worthing. A. R. quite a gentleman & highly accomplished in many ways.—[2]

C. Darwin

Jan. 10th.—

ApcS
Postmark: JA 10 | 79
DAR 210.6: 152

[1] See letter from W. E. Darwin, 9 January 1879.

[2] Anthony Rich had decided to leave his property in the City of London to CD (see *Correspondence* vol. 26, letter from Anthony Rich, 7 December 1878). George Howard Darwin sent William an account of his visit to Worthing, a town on the coast of Sussex, on 8 and 9 January (letter from G. H. Darwin to W. E. Darwin, 10 January 1879 (DAR 210.14: 14)):

> He is a very little lively old man with a grey beard, & does'nt look near his age of 75. He is a great talker & pleasant. He seems to read a great deal—including French Italian Latin & Greek—and is very advanced in his views political social & religious. … I rather think his father had no profession; at any rate he lived in Surry & Mr. R. lived partly there & partly in London until about 20 years ago when his father died at

the age of 94. He Mr. R. was at Caius Coll. Camb. & was a scholar of the college, but did not go out in honours, as it was before the days of Classical Tripos. He was going to the bar but fell ill & went and lived for 8 years in Italy, where he regularly worked as an artist at Rome. He has several of his drawings hanging up & they strike me as good. He gave up art when he became ill some 20 years ago, and as he was turned out of his London house by the lease ending, he came and settled at Worthing. He is a member of the Reform Club, but thinks most of the members a very weak-kneed lot in their liberalism.

From Leopold Würtenberger[1] 10 January 1879

Dettighofen bei Griessen (Gr. Baden)
den 10. Jan. 1879.

Hochgeehrtester Herr!

Seit mehreren Jahren verwende ich meine freie Zeit dazu, die Entwickelungsgesetze der Ammoniten näher zu erforschen und ich erlaubte mir vor einigen Jahren schon einmal, Ihnen eine kurze Publication über einige Resultate dieser Studien zuzusenden, worauf ich von Ihnen zu meiner grössten Freude ein so freundlich aufmunterndes Schreiben erhielt.[2] Da mich meine Studien davon überzeugten, dass die Entwickelung der Ammoniten einen der schärfsten und klarsten Beweise für die Wahrheit der Descendenztheorie liefern, so begann ich vor einiger Zeit schon, über meine Beobachtungen ein ausführliches Werk auszuarbeiten, dem eine Anzahl Abbildungen beigegeben werden soll.

In den letzten Jahren wurde ich jedoch an meinen Ammonitenstudien dadurch ausserordentlich gehindert, dass ich mich, wider meinen Willen, nur um existiren zu können, einem technischen Berufe hingeben musste, der mir fast gar keine Zeit zu wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten übrig liess.[3] Es ist mir bis jetzt leider nicht gelungen, eine Stellung zu erringen, zu deren Wirkungskreis das Betreiben paläontologischer Studien gehört, und eigene Mittel fehlen mir ebenfalls, um die mich in so hohem Grade anziehenden Forschungen in unabhängiger Weise zu einem Abschlusse bringen zu können.

Diese Umstände werden mich vielleicht einigermassen entschuldigen, wenn ich es wage, bei Ihnen, hochgeehrtester Herr, ergebenst anzufragen, ob es nicht etwa möglich wäre, von einer Stiftung zur Förderung geologischer Forschungen, deren es in Ihrem Lande mehrere gibt, eine Unterstützung zu bekommen, die mich in den Stand setzte, meine Untersuchungen über Ammoniten in den nächsten Jahren ungehindert fortsetzen zu können.

Der naturwissenschaftliche Verein zu Carlsruhe[4] würde die Herstellungskosten der zu meinem Werke nöthigen Abbildungen übernehmen. Für eine Anzahl Entwickelungsreihen jurassischer Ammoniten habe ich bereits das vollständige Material beisammen und mehrere noch vorhandene Lücken würden sich nach meiner Ueberzeugung durch das weitere Ausbeuten guter Fundstellen unseres süddeutschen Jura ausfüllen lassen, auch hoffe ich durch das Studium einiger grösserer Sammlungen noch manches zu gewinnen. Wenn ich mich diesen Arbeiten ungehindert hingeben könnte, würde nach etwa $1\frac{1}{2}$–2 Jahren mein Werk druckfertig sein.[5]

Wenn Sie, hochgeehrtester Herr, die Freundlichkeit haben wollten, mich bei einer Stiftung zu empfehlen, welche den Zweck hat, unbemittelte Naturforscher bei ihren wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten zu unterstützen, so würde wohl meine Angelegenheit einer günstigen Erledigung entgegengehen und ich wäre Ihnen dafür zu unendlichem Danke verpflichtet, denn nach dem Erscheinen meiner Arbeit würde mein Schicksal vielleicht auch eine günstigere Wendung nehmen, indem es mir dann wohl eher gelingen würde, eine meinen Neigungen entsprechende Stellung zu finden.

Ueber meine persönlichen Verhältnisse erlaube ich mir noch beizufügen, dass ich gegenwärtig 33 Jahre alt, allein stehend ohne eigene Familie bin und während mehrerer Jahre an der polytechnischen Hochschule zu Carlsruhe[6] Geologie, Mineralogie, Chemie und Mathematik studirte.

Schliesslich möchte ich Sie noch höflichst bitten, mir meine Dreistigkeit nicht übel zu nehmen. Nur der Umstand, dass bei mir der unwiderstehliche Drang zu naturwissenschaftlichen Forschungen mit so ungünstigen äusseren Verhältnissen zusammentrifft, gibt mir den Muth, mich in dieser Angelegenheit an Sie zu wenden.

Mit der vorzüglichsten Hochachtung verbleibe ich | Ihr ergebenster | Leopold Würtenberger

DAR 181: 184

1 For a translation of this letter, see Appendix I.
2 CD's letter to Würtenberger has not been found. There is an annotated copy of Würtenberger's 'Neuer Beitrag zum geologischen Beweise der Darwin'schen Theorie' (New contribution to the geological evidence for Darwinian theory; Würtenberger 1873) in the Darwin Pamphlet Collection–CUL.
3 Würtenberger worked as an assistant in the Exchequer of Karlsruhe from 1874 to 1876, and then until 1877 as an assistant with the permanent exhibition of agricultural teaching tools, equipment, and machinery at Karlsruhe (Svojtka *et al.* 2009, p. 364).
4 Natural History Society of Karlsruhe.
5 Würtenberger published his conclusions in his book, *Studien über die Stammesgeschichte der Ammoniten: ein geologischer Beweis für die Darwin'sche Theorie* (Studies on the phylogeny of ammonites: a geological proof of Darwinian theory; Würtenberger 1880). He also published the conclusions of his forthcoming book in December 1879 in the German journal *Kosmos* (Würtenberger 1879).
6 Karlsruhe University.

To Mary Jung 11 January 1879[1]

Down

[…] Permit me to advise you to try not to be troubled about the differences between ecclesiastics & scientific men.[2] Search for the truth, & then your conscience will be at ease. In the course of time ecclesiastics have always managed to make their conclusions somehow to harmonise with ascertained truths, which they at first vehemently & ignorantly opposed […]

LS incomplete[3]
J. A. Stargardt (dealer) (catalogue 681, 28–9 June 2005)

1 The date and the address, Down, are given in the sale catalogue.
2 See letter from Mary Jung, 7 January 1879.
3 The original letter is complete and is described in the sale catalogue as being $1\frac{3}{4}$ pages long.

From C. H. Blackley 13 January 1879

Arnside House, | *Stretford Road,* | *Manchester.*
Jan^{y} 13$^{th.}$ 1879

Dear Sir,

Some time ago I came across an anecdote that bears somewhat on your theory of the origin of species. I do not know if you will care to have it but to me, who am a Lancashire man, the story seemed to be almost worthy of being placed by the side of that of the late chimpanze "Joe" at the London Zoological Gardens.[1] I give it just as it came to me partly in the vernacular of this county or rather of the village in which the meeting occurred. In a school room of one of the country villages of Lancashire a gentleman had one evening gathered together a number of young poeple of both sexes for the purpose of giving a semi-scientific lecture. After the lecture the time was taken up by conversation and in the course of the evening one of the youths who was evidently acquainted with the doctrine of the "origin of species" gathered a group of girls around him and gave them two or three of the leading facts of this doctrine. One of the girls who was not considered to be very bright in her intellect listened to statements of the youth with rather a troubled countenance but said nothing at the time.

In the course of the evening however the girl found an opportunity of putting some questions to the gentleman who had been lecturing and the following conversation occurred:—

'Sir J— here's John—has bin tellin us ut thers a mon i London as says at fust men as wur made wur made eawt o monkeys dun yo think its true?

"Well" said the gentleman "not perhaps exactly as you put it but in the main it is true Mr Darwin of London does say that man is descended from the monkey."

"An dun yo believe it?" "Yes I must say I do because Mr Darwin has, so far, had the best of the argument in spite of the very able opponents who have been pitted against him; but you know it is not quite as you represent it; man was not made directly from a monkey. The change has extended over a long period of time. "Well," said the girl "Aw dunnot care heaw yo explain it but if it is so aw am summat fain ut awm noan a mon"*

*Something glad that I am not a man

Please do not take the trouble of replying to my note. If the story interests you at all I shall be quite repaid for my trouble

Sincerely Yours | Cha^{s} H Blackley

Cha^{s} Darwin Esq MA | FRS &c

DAR 160: 194