

Correspondence Project

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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES DARWIN

1880

To Horace Darwin 1 January 1880

My dear Horace—

My memory is so bad that I am not sure whether I wrote to the Bank, about your payments. I agreed to pay you the same allowance as before viz £300 (Aunt Catherines money does not come into consideration) & as £5000 was transferred to you, & this produces 200£ per annum, I ought to pay you 100£ viz 50 on Jan 1 & on July 1— Is this all right?¹ Does not the £5000 produce £200 less income tax?— Please get your banking book & see whether 5.0£ has been placed to your account. & let me hear.— My overplus shall be divided in 10 or 14 days.—²

Many thanks for charming little compasses—³ May I trust you to make memorandum that I owe you for them, so that I c^d pay whenever you come here.—

What a nice few days we had at Christmas.—

Your affectionate Father | C. Darwin

Jan 1.— 1880—

DAR 185: 6

¹ CD placed £5000 of stock in trust for Horace Darwin and Ida Farrer before their marriage (see CD's Investment Book (Down House MS) and *Correspondence* vol. 27, letter to W. M. Hacon, 8 November [1879], and letter from W. M. Hacon, 31 December 1879). In 1880, he paid Horace £50 on 1 January and 1 July (CD's Classed account books (Down House MS)). Catherine Langton had left money in trust to CD that was intended for distribution to his children (see *Correspondence* vol. 14, letter to W. E. Darwin, 8 November [1866]).

² CD had decided to distribute the surplus income from his investments to his children in 1879 (see *Correspondence* vol. 27, letter to the Darwin children, 21 February 1879).

³ Horace may have built some of the compasses that CD used in his observations for *Movement in plants*.

From C. H. Tindal 1 January 1880

The Manor House | Aylesbury.

Jan: 1st 1880.

Dear Sir—

I have been through the whole of the Clive Correspondence & have made extracts of all the allusions to D^r Darwin— and I have also selected three letters in

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which mention is made of your father—¹ Pray keep the extracts if they are of any interest to you—and kindly return the three letters—

The M^r: Gifford referred to, was the Rev^d: Richard Gifford. M.A. of Balliol College Oxford. Rector of North Ockington Co: Essex & Vicar of Duffield Co. Derby

He was a person of great literary attainments, & a fine Hebrew & Classical Scholar— The article in the gentlemans Magazine which appeared on his death will give you a fair description of him & his writings generally.² I cannot say how he became acquainted with D^r: Darwin— The correspondence between him & M^r: Clive began in 1760. and they were then both acquainted with D^r: D. then.

The M^r: Clive referred to is the Ven^{ble}: Archdeacon Robert Clive Rector of Moreton, Prebendary of Westminster & Archdeacon of Salop. He was son of the Rev^d: Benjamin Clive of Duffield & cousin of the celebrated L^d: Clive whose sister he married.³

Duffield is about 5 miles from Derby. M^r: Richard Gifford is buried there, & his daughter & only child Euphemia Gifford likewise— She lived to be 89 & died in the year 1854.⁴

It may interest you to know that I have here a picture cut out in black Paper of Archdeacon Clive, & his brother George Clive a banker in London playing Chess—⁵ The picture was cut out by Miss Wedgwood daughter of Josiah Wedgwood who married D^r: Robert Darwin of Shrewsbury.⁶ It was left together with a print of the 1st. Lord Clive to M^r: Gifford by the Archdeacon.

I have a long correspondence between M^r: Gifford & his wife,⁷ & daughter which may throw some light on the commencement of the acquaintance with D^r: Darwin. I will look through this tomorrow & let you know the result.

I must apologise for troubling you with so long a letter— containing I am afraid much that is irrelevant, & subscribe myself, Y^{rs}: very faithfully. | Charles H. Tindal

[Enclosure 1]

July 4th. 1768

The Ven: R. Clive to Rev^d: R Gifford.

I thank you, for the account you sent me of M^r: Rotton,⁸ & was very glad to find that you were of opinion he mended very fast. I have since seen D^r: Darwin, who seems to think he may get much better with care & proper management, but he can by no means approve of y^c: Bark as he apprehends his case to be dropsical. He happened to have in his pocket a little treatise which he had just written upon y^c: use of y^c: Bark, & which he was going to send up to y^c: College of Physicians, to be printed amongst their next annual publications— he gave me y^c: perusal of it, & leave to transcribe a part of it, which I will send you, & I dare say you will think it very judicious as I do.⁹ “The effect of ye Peruvian Bark & other Bitters seems much to depend on their decreasing ye Irritability of the nervous system; as is evinced by their daily successful use in Fever & other diseases from Irritation— And as y^c: palsies & dropsies described below were owing to a decrease of this Irritability, the Bark seems, whenever it was given to have produced or increased these diseases,

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or to have destroyed y^c patient— The words Relaxation and Braceing cannot be opposed to this idea of the effect of Bitter medicines, as they can with no propriety be ascribed to ye nervous system of animal bodies; but are mechanical terms that belong alone to dead matter, & not to y^c laws of life, & have misled many of y^c faculty to ye great detriment of their patients— One observation I shall add, which has appeared to me invariably true viz: that y^c violent coughs, & y^c febrile symptoms that are attendant on obstructed Livers, after proper Evacuations by bleeding with repeated vomiting or purging, are cured with certainty by the Bark, either alone or with the addition of a slight chalybeate¹⁰ or anodyne. But I believe from the following case that, where no symptoms of Irritation are attendant on obstructed Livers, ye Bark & chalybeates have induced palsies & dropsies to g^r destruction of Thousands— Thus far y^c ingenious Doctor, whose observations stand upon facts which have happened in his own practice, & which he produces in his treatise. His sentiments may be considered as a key to y^c use of the Bark & I am sure they will make me more cautious in recommending this medicine Send me word whether you will be at Moreton this day fortnight in y^c Evening or, coming by Lichfield, & calling on D^r Darwin give me y^c meeting at D^r Adams' at Counde on Tuesday by dinner¹¹

[Enclosure 2]

Moreton
Nov: 6th 1768.

R. Clive to R. Gifford

I am glad to find by your last papers to y^c Doctor & his letter to you, that matters are likely to be adjusted very amicably betwixt you even without the help of a moderator. I think you were a little off your guard in your definition of a Living Substance when you said you meant no more by it than 'a substance well fitted to convey impressions to y^c mind & to execute her orders— *Living* here signifies *apt for y^c business of Life.*' If this be a true definition of a *Living substance* will it not follow that an axe, a saw, or an hammer, or any other material instrument that we make use of for y^c business of life is as much a *living substance* fitted to convey impressions to y^c mind, & to execute her orders as y^c body itself is—

From R. Clive to R. Gifford

Moreton
Dec: 12. 1768.

'Dear Sir—

I am desired by Doctor Darwin to let you know, that his pig & M^r Whitleys¹² company of comedians will be ready for our Establishment at Lichfield in y^c 2nd week of January next. I propose being there on Tuesday ye 10th & hope nothing will prevent you giving me y^c meeting, & pray bring your strictures on Berkeleys book upon y^c material world—for y^c Doctor tells me he has been writing a chapter to prove a material world, which he hopes will please you, as it plucks up the root

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of that kind of infidelity called scepticism.—¹³ We must try spend two or three days with y^e Doctor, which I think we shall pass very agreeably—. Pray bring Berkeleys book with you as ye Doctor may not have it.’—

R. Clive to R Gifford

[Enclosure 3]

Moreton

Sept: 12th: (no year)

R. Clive to R. Gifford—

I read over your remarks with D^r Darwin, who took all in good part, said he was very much obliged to you & would write soon— by the observations he made it appeared you had misunderstood some few passages in his book—& I think he will respond to your objections very well. I mentioned to him our desire of attending him sometime when he opened an human body— to which he said that he could give us all the satisfaction we desired from an inspection of y^e parts of a pig, & invited us to spend two or three days with him at Xmas, when he should kill a fat pig— I propose much pleasure from this meeting & hope nothing will happen to prevent it

[Enclosure 4]

Stych.

Jan: 10th: 1771.

R. Clive to R. Gifford.

I thank you for your letter & your proposal to meet me at Lichfield, which perhaps I may call upon you to fulfil before it be long, as D^r Darwin has often pressed me to come and spend a week with him—& two new philosophical friends who have lately settled in Lichfield, induced to it by that cheerfulness and benevolence of disposition, with which you & I & all who know y^e good Doctor are so much charmed.

R. Clive to R. Gifford

Lichfield

May 30. 1771.

I wish you could have spent tomorrow with D^r Darwin & his two ingenious friends Edgeworth & Day¹⁴

R. Clive to Richard Gifford

Moreton

Oct: 25th: 1772.

‘I have been much out of order for these last 5 days with a fever of the bilious kind—luckily D^r Darwin was in y^e neighbourhood & prescribed for me from my written account of myself though he had not time to see— he has lain at home but one night these five weeks so great is his fame & usefulness

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[Enclosure 5]

Moreton.
July 1st 1773.

R. Clive to R. Gifford

‘I dare say you had a very sincere pleasure in Lord Clive’s victory over his enemies in parliament which was very complete & very honorable—¹⁵ D^r Darwin wrote me a good blackguard letter on the occasion which will Entertain you better than anything else I can add to this hasty scrawl. I will therefore transcribe it “I had a great mind to have written a letter in y^e newspapers on y^e following plan. To all y^e Blackguards in Great Britain— Loving friends & Cousins— To it again—at him— We shall conquer this Lion at last I warrant y^e Never mind a pinch or two— Burgoyne will stave, & Meredith tail—¹⁶ At him again. We’ll first demolish Clive & then Chatham,¹⁷ and there shall not be a man of virtue left in the Kingdom if we can help it— Now’s the time, My loving Cousins in Parliament, proscribe & confiscate all that are against the ministers at present; and when a new ministry prevails, then all the present proscribers shall be proscribed in their turn. till Temple bar is hung round with Calves heads like a Butcher’s shop— This is the true levelling principle!¹⁸ Rare times for old England! At him again, my lads next session— Never yelp & howl so for one defeat— Give me another pot of porter— Oh! d— your virtue— it has saved your country”—.’

[Enclosure 6]

Lichfield.
Jan: 25th (no year).

R. Clive to R. Gifford.

When I came here yesterday I found D^r Darwin & M^r Boothby busily engaged in translating the Genera Plantarum of Linnæus into English, in which if they succeed to their Satisfaction M^r Boothby is to publish it.¹⁹ It will probably be a work of time, as it will be of some nicety—in which I told them I thought you could be useful as you have y^e book. I also told them you had been trading on metaphysical ground— They both wished much to see your M.S. M^r B. said he would give you his free sentiments ou bien ou mal. He is going to publish a work which Rousseau entrusted to him about 4 years ago with a request not to do it till after his death.²⁰

R. Clive to R. Gifford.

Lichfield.
Jan: 20th (no year).I will send you some verses I found upon D^r Darwin’s table.

On the death of Brindley the great perfecter of Inland Navigation.²¹
Leek, Cheadle, Cheddleton, Delf, Burslem, Woor,
Stoke, Turnhurst, Ipstones, Draycot in y^e Moor,
All strive for Brindley’s birth, but strive in vain.²²

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For Brindley sprung immortal from the main—
 On the much lamented death of M^r. G—r—ck.²³
 Ambubiarum collegia pharmacopolæ.²⁴
 Pimps, prompters, poets, painters, rhymers, riddlers,
 Beaux, taylors, link boys, fruit girls, singers, fiddlers,
 Scene shifters, tumblers, fairies, goblins, witches,
 Backs, bullies, gamblers, demireps, & bitches,
 All mourn for Garrick dead with wild distraction
 A crowded playhouse was their scene of action—

R. Clive to R. Gifford

Shrewsbury.

Sept 14th. (no year)

I received D^r. Darwins response which I think very ingenious & solid. I should be glad of your sentiments as soon as you have perused it. I am now sitting in Company with the Hero of D^r. Darwins book, who is in better health & spirits than I ever remember him—

DAR 227.7: 11–13, 16, 18, 25, 128

CD ANNOTATION

Top of letter: 'I must make note of obligation to M^r Tindal' *pencil*

- ¹ CD had asked Tindal for details about Richard Gifford and Robert Clive (1722/3–92), friends of his grandfather Erasmus Darwin (see *Correspondence* vol. 27, letter to C. H. Tindal, 29 December 1879. CD's father was Robert Waring Darwin.
- ² Gifford's obituary appeared in *Gentleman's Magazine* 77 (May 1807): 477–8.
- ³ 'Lord Clive' was Robert Clive (1725–74); his sister was Rebecca Clive.
- ⁴ Gifford's daughter was Euphemia Gifford.
- ⁵ George Clive. The plate on p. 12 shows a similar silhouette.
- ⁶ Susannah Darwin was the daughter of Josiah Wedgwood I, and the wife of Robert Waring Darwin, CD's father.
- ⁷ Elizabeth Gifford.
- ⁸ John Rotton.
- ⁹ 'Peruvian bark' from cinchona trees was a common source of quinine. Erasmus Darwin prescribed it as a stimulus for treating fevers and other conditions (see E. Darwin 1794–6, 1: 83–4, 100 and 2: *passim*). Its medical properties are praised in *The botanic garden*, pt 2, *The loves of plants* (E. Darwin 1799, pp. 103–5); however, no separate publication on Peruvian bark has been found.
- ¹⁰ Chalybeate: water or other liquid containing iron (*OED*; see also E. Darwin 1794–6, 2: 175–6).
- ¹¹ William Adams was rector of Counde, Shropshire (*ODNB*).
- ¹² James Whitley.
- ¹³ George Berkeley's controversial views on perception and the material world were published in *An essay towards a new theory of vision* (Berkeley 1709). Erasmus Darwin discussed visual perception in *Zoonomia* (E. Darwin 1794–6, 1: 14–29).
- ¹⁴ Richard Lovell Edgeworth and Thomas Day; both were members of the Lunar Society of Birmingham (see King Hele 1999, pp. 79–80).
- ¹⁵ In 1772 and 1773, several motions were brought against Robert Clive (1725–74) in the House of Commons, in connection with criticism of the East India Company's administration in Bengal. In May 1773, Clive successfully defended himself against accusations of appropriating money while serving as governor of Bengal. (*ODNB*).

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- ¹⁶ John Burgoyne was an army officer, MP, and outspoken critic of Robert Clive (1725–74) and the East India Company. William Meredith served on Burgoyne’s committee to investigate the East India Company and seconded his motion to censure Clive for corruption. (*ODNB*).
- ¹⁷ William Pitt (Pitt the elder), first earl of Chatham.
- ¹⁸ Temple Bar, the historic gateway to London, was used to display the severed heads of traitors until 1746. The Levellers was a name given to supporters of a democratic republic during the period of the English Civil War and Commonwealth (*EB*).
- ¹⁹ Brooke Boothby. The translation of Carl von Linné’s *Genera plantarum* was credited to ‘a botanical society at Lichfield’ (Linnaeus 1787; see King-Hele 1999, pp. 217–18).
- ²⁰ *Ou bien ou mal*: whether well or ill (French). Boothby edited *Rousseau, juge de Jean-Jacques: dialogue* (Rousseau 1780). On the friendship between Boothby and Jean Jacques Rousseau, see Zonneveld [2003].
- ²¹ James Brindley was principal engineer on a number of canals across the Midlands; he died in 1772 (*ODNB*).
- ²² Leek, Cheadle, Cheddleton, Delph, Burslem, Woore, Stoke-on-Trent, Ipstones, and Draycott are villages or towns in Staffordshire. Brindley was born in Wormhill, Derbyshire, and lived at Turnhurst Hall in Staffordshire after his marriage in 1765 (*ODNB*).
- ²³ The actor David Garrick died in 1779 (*ODNB*).
- ²⁴ ‘Ambubiarum collegia pharmacopolae’ (correctly, ‘Ambubaiarum collegia, pharmacopolae’): ‘A band of flute girls, quack doctors ...’. The source is Horace, *Satires* 1.2.1.

From Samuel Butler 2 January 1880

15. Clifford’s Inn | Fleet Street E.C.
Jan 2. 1880Charles Darwin Esq^r | F.R.S. &—

Dear Sir

Will you kindly refer me to the edition of ‘Kosmos’ wh: contains the text of D^r Krause’s article on D^r Erasmus Darwin, as translated by M^r W. S. Dallas?

I have before me the last February number of *Kosmos*, which appears by your preface to be the one from wh: M^r Dallas has translated; but his translation contains long and important passages which are not in the February number of *Kosmos*, while many passages in the original article are omitted in the translation.¹

Among the passages introduced are the last six pages of the English article, which seem to condemn by anticipation the position I have taken as regards D^r Erasmus Darwin in my book *Evolution old & New*, and which I believe I was the first to take.² The concluding and therefore, perhaps, most prominent sentence of the translation you have given to the public stands thus;—

“Erasmus Darwin’s system was in itself a most significant first step in the path of knowledge which his grandson has opened up for us, but the wish to revive it at the present day as has actually been seriously attempted shows a weakness of thought and a mental anachronism which no man can envy.”³

The *Kosmos* which has been sent me from Germany contains no such passage—

As you have stated in your preface that my book *Evolution old & New* appeared subsequently to D^r Krause’s article, and as no intimation is given that the article has been altered and added to since its original appearance, while the accuracy of the translation as though from the February number of *Kosmos*, is as you expressly

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say guaranteed by M^r Dallas's "scientific reputation together with his knowledge of German",⁴ your readers will naturally suppose that all they read in the translation appeared in February last, and therefore before *Evolution old and New* was written, and therefore independently of, and necessarily without reference to that book.

I do not doubt that this was actually the case, but have failed to obtain the edition which contains the passage above referred to, and several others which appear in the translation.

I have a personal interest in this matter and venture therefore to ask for the explanation which I do not doubt you will readily give me

I am | y^r. faithfully | S. Butler—⁵

DAR 92: B65–6

¹ Ernst Krause had published an article on Erasmus Darwin in *Kosmos* (Krause 1879a). William Sweetland Dallas agreed to translate this article from the German for *Erasmus Darwin* (see *Correspondence* vol. 27, letter from W. S. Dallas, 14 March 1879). However, Krause sent a revised and much enlarged version of the article in manuscript, and it was this revised text, not the original *Kosmos* article, that Dallas translated (see *Correspondence* vol. 27, letter from Ernst Krause, 5 May 1879, and letter from W. S. Dallas, 7 May 1879). In the preface to *Erasmus Darwin*, p. iii, CD mentioned only Krause's original article, having decided to omit much of the revised essay from the published English version. The additions were reinstated in Krause 1880.

² Butler's *Evolution old and new* (Butler 1879) was published in May 1879 and contained lengthy discussions of Erasmus Darwin, Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, and other descent theorists. CD sent Krause a copy of Butler's book (*Correspondence* vol. 27, letter to Ernst Krause, 13 May 1879). Both CD and Krause were critical of Butler's views (see *ibid.*, letter to Ernst Krause, 14 May 1879, and letters from Ernst Krause, 23 May 1879, 7 June 1879, and 13 June 1879); however, CD remarked: 'I hope that you will not expend much powder & shot on M^r Butler, for he really is not worthy of it' (letter to Ernst Krause, 9 June [1879]).

³ The quotation is taken from the final sentence of Krause's essay in *Erasmus Darwin*, p. 216.

⁴ *Erasmus Darwin*, p. iii n.

⁵ Emma Darwin wrote at the head of the letter, "To be returned as it means war we think".

From Joseph Prestwich 2 January 1880

21 Park Crescent | Portland Place

2 Jan^y. 1880

My dear M^r Darwin,

May I trouble you with two lines in explanation to set me right if I am wrong in my statement. In reviewing the history of the "Parallel Roads" I refer to your views, and relying on the opinion expressed by later writers, whom I suppose to have been in communication with you, I have stated that you have abandoned the "marine theory"—therefore finally committing myself to this statement I should be glad to hear that I am quite correct in doing so, or if I am to put it in any other form.¹

With the best wishes of the season I am | My dear M^r Darwin | Very truly your's
| Joseph Prestwich

DAR 174: 66

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- ¹ In his 1839 paper ‘Parallel roads of Glen Roy’, CD argued that the three horizontal terraces across the steep sides of the valley in Lochaber were the remains of beaches formed by the sea as the landmass of Scotland rose in graduated steps. In an article on the parallel roads, Prestwich remarked: ‘the marine theory was brought forward with his usual power of illustration, but subsequently abandoned, by Darwin’ (Prestwich 1879, p. 665). CD had abandoned his theory when an alternative explanation involving glacial lakes was advanced by Thomas Francis Jamieson (see *Correspondence* vol. 9, letter to T. F. Jamieson, 6 September [1861], and Rudwick 1974). CD discussed his reasons for giving up the marine theory with Charles Lyell and John Tyndall, both of whom published on the geology of Glen Roy (see *Correspondence* vol. 10, letter to Charles Lyell, 14 October [1862], and *Correspondence* vol. 24, letter to John Tyndall, 5 June [1876]; see also Lyell 1873, p. 307, and Tyndall 1876, p. 238).

From B. J. Sullivan 2 January [1880]¹

Bournemouth

Jan^y. 2./79

My dear Darwin

Many happy new years to you & M^{rs}. Darwin and all your party. I think you will be amused with a few extracts from Bishop Stirlings youngest daughter’s letter, who has gone out with him this time; as it gives an amusing account of semi civilised Fuegians.²

“We heard from M^r. W. a story of our name sake “Stirling”. M^r. Bridges was pitching into them all rather strongly one day in his sermon, and Stirling stood up and said “I came here to worship God, and not to be lectured by you”—³

“One or two at the Station have quite large pieces of land, which they are converting into gardens, Stirling is far ahead of any, and takes great pride in his. He has now 12 cows, including calves, and two pigs, so he is quite a rich man, I like him very much; his wife is “Louisa”. and one of his little children “Gertrude”. He said he was pleased to see “Mees” as he called me, as he wanted to see the girl his “little Gerty” was called after”—⁴

“A few outsiders came over yesterday in their Canoes, among them the leader of the Mapacie long ago”—⁵

“There are several nice men living here, and the boys who have grown up here look nice manly lads.”

“They are very fond of biscuits. Eleanor—“Joe’s” wife—has not been well and papa asked her if he took her any of the biscuits he had given him. He looked quite reproachful as he answered that “he always took it home to her”; and we found that when he had six given him he only eat one, and took five to her”—⁶

“This morning, one family brought a bucket of milk for sale; and Stirling some butter which he got Louisa to make, because papa asked him if they had any”. “The orphanage children look very jolly”. “James Sullivan⁷ is a splendid little chap, the jolliest boy here”.

“The Eldest orphan girl is to be married tomorrow, she is about sixteen, she is said to be fond of dressing up in M^{rs}. Whait’s clothes.⁸ Once one of the girls found a stocking, so they took it in turns to wear the one stocking. They always choose who shall sit at the head of their table at meals”—

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“We went to the Sunday school which M^r. Laurence⁹ was taking, sometimes one or two of the married men come to it if the room is not too crowded. They sang hymns in English very nicely, and repeated texts, and then translated them into their own language”.

“Papa wanted to get two boys for his boat, but found it difficult, as all the nice ones had wives; one wanted to come very much, but as he had a wife papa did not like to take him. Presently he came running & said. “I quick find man not bad, take care of wife”, which meant that Stirling would let her live with him & his wife while he was away; on that “Barry Loring” and his wife would do the same;¹⁰ and his wife told him he might go”—so he is coming”—

“The other boy is from Lennox Island, a nice small little fellow who does not speak English except “yes”, “Sailor”.— “One of the men who is to be married tomorrow said “he was ashamed to go to church because he had not got any “*pants*” to go in “using that expression”.

“This morning we went to the wedding. The bride looked very nice, she was dressed in a pretty blue and white print. The bridegroom too looked very nice. The were both shy, as there were about 78 as a congregation to see the performance.”—

“This morning we watched Willie,¹¹ and James Sullivan, sawing wood they did it splendidly”— “The Indians are very sarcastic if displeased at any thing; before leaving Ushuwia the Bridges¹² gave away many old clothes, and flour, and one man was discontented because he thought he ought to have more. They had given him less because he was not so deserving, so he shouldered his bag of flour and trudged off saying it was really so heavy, and so large that he could hardly carry it”. When they were off a “splendid” glacier on their way to Sandy point—which from their position I think must be one near Mount Darwin she describes hearing the noise several times of avalanches, sounding like peals of thunder.

The Bishop was preparing to hop from Sandy Point to Falklands in a boat sent out from England taking her with him. The boat is decked but only 30 feet long. He had her built for work at Falklands, and sent out by steamer to meet him in Straits: I urged him to send her direct to Falklands as there was great risk if she had heavy weather crossing. I think he goes in her instead of A. Gardiner Yawl¹³ because he would not send men in her without showing his confidence by going himself with them. Of course she might go often safely, if carefully handled, but she is too small for very heavy weather

I am sorry to say I have had a sad account from Mellersh of his health. He went to live at Brighton for his daughter’s health, and was soon very ill with bad liver and an abscess in one lung, and suffering in one leg from sciatica.¹⁴ He had been near death for some time, but has been better lately.

M^r. Bridges has had to return from Ushuwia through breaking down entirely in health. with our united kind regards to M^rs. Darwin and your family | Believe me dear Darwin | yours very sincerely | B. J. Sullivan

I am reading with great interest your G. Fathers life which Mrs. Langton has lent me.—¹⁵