

Letter to Charles Lyell  
Charles Darwin, 22 August 1867

My dear Lyell

I thank you cordially for your two last letters. The former one did me real good, for I had got so wearied with the subject that I could hardly bear to correct the proofs, & you gave me fresh heart. I remember thinking that when you came to the pigeon chapter you would pass it over as quite unreadable.

Your last letter has interested me in very many ways, & I have been glad to hear about those horrid unbelieving French men. I have been particularly pleased that you have noticed Pangenesis. I do not know whether you ever had the feeling of having thought so much over a subject that you had lost all power of judging it. This is my case with Pangen: (which is 26 or 27 years old!) but I am inclined to think that if it be admitted as a probable hypothesis, it will be a somewhat important step in Biology.

I cannot help still regretting that you have even looked at the slips, for I hope to improve the whole a good deal. It is surprizing to me & delightful that you should care in the least about the plants. Altogether you have given me one of the best cordials I ever had in my life, & I heartily thank you. I despatched this morning the French edit. The introduction was a complete surprize to me, & I dare say has injured the book in France; nevertheless with all its bad judgment & taste it shews I think that the woman is uncommonly clever. Once again many thanks for the renewed courage with which I shall attack the horrid proof sheets.

Our kind love to Lady Lyell

Yours affectly

Charles Darwin