

March 16.33

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher

I write to you because I  
have nothing to do !! So don't  
trouble yourself to answer. In the  
discussion of yesterday in Prof. Mackinnon's  
broadcast talk about my father.  
It is generally very nice in tone,  
and merits praise, I think. But  
I doubt if she thoroughly understands  
natural selection. She says in effect  
that civilized man is protected by  
tools &c in such a way as to make  
it difficult for selection to act.  
But civilization can only check  
selection by lowering the birth rate  
or increasing supplies. The contest  
between two armed men for  
survival might be just as severe, or

more severe, than that between two  
naked savages. The slogan of the  
survival of the fittest - has been too  
often used, she says, "to justify  
the oppression of the poor by the  
rich". Where, I wonder? I suspect, like  
Holdens, Hughes & Quisberg, she  
would like to get her knife into  
me. But I believe it has been both  
right and politic for me to say  
what seems to me to be the truth.  
And I suspect the underlying and  
probably unconscious motive is to  
carry favour with socialists by  
attacking such as me, - and then  
to go a long way in following what  
I have suggested. Well no more  
of this.

I have written something on  
free will and on the uniformity.

of useful characters. I want them  
to be read by at least two  
persons! And I shall I expect  
sacrifice you or the other as one  
of them!

Have you seen Enclosed? I  
find him difficult to understand.  
His error, I take it, is that if he  
cannot see the use of a structure  
which is developing into an obviously  
useful structure, he not only denies  
that it is useful, but also that it  
can be correlated with some other  
useful growth. I suppose in nearly  
every case a useful structure has  
sprung from something useful for some  
other purpose.

I hope all goes well with  
you — but don't expect an  
answer —

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Darwin