

Jan. 17. 33

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

If your lady is silly enough to jibe at your article, I should certainly try the Hibbert. It can't do harm and they might well like it.

My brains are not equal to free will today! I do believe I have free will. I cannot help it. A well-disciplined squad when firing will always produce a target with marks scattered round the centre. Ask any one of them and he will say "I could fire at anything I liked". But he does not. The statistics of marriage seem to show that we all are saying "I would marry or not exactly as I choose". But we seem to add

"All the same I shall always obey
the commands of Circumstances".

How is that state of things distinguished
from determinism, if it exists? I
have no difficulty in believing in
free will of that sort, whatever
cruelty I look at it. But if it is
creation, it seems to me that the
Firing Squad must have some power
of moving the target. How can we
know more the target of past
Circumstances?

But I have not yet fully taken
in your letter, so ought not to
write.

Yours sincerely

Leonard Darwin