

for 10 days
~~Camp~~ Orchard. Huntingdon R^o Cambridge
Oct. 15. 31

Dear Fisher.

I was wondering whether you were sufficiently recovered from your operation and from my last letter to get another, when your note to me arrived. I have sent on your review ^{which I like,} to Moore, and hope he has not yet got the book reviewed. Your review rather backs up my feeling that some anti-Lamarckian book is now wanted, for I gather that he does not know all the points. Did you see MacBride's address "Habit the Main Factor in Evolution"? That gave me the same feeling, though I don't want him especially singled out for attack. I have drafted a letter to Ford, but not yet sent it, which I may do after the election, (at which I shall vote for a protectionist, alas!) A combination of Harley and you would do it best, but I have a suspicion that he would get all the profits (of which there would be none) and that he would manage to throw all the work on you. Next best would be you and Ford. But I guess you don't want the job at all, and joint production are difficult. I did think of sending you my draft letter & Memo, but so far have refrained!

I have been skimming, not reading a lot.

very good book by Howlock Ellis. I think he quoted
Cair-Sanders as saying that primitive savages have
small families. I have a vague memory of reading that
in C.S. Myers, and disbelieving it. Thinking it over
now, however, and hearing the cuckoo in ^{mind} ~~fact~~, it
really seems to me highly probable. A wandering
Savage might carry a baby and look after a
child of 4; but with 5 children to look after,
she would be left behind, or get into other
difficulties. The 5th child might often endanger all
the younger children. Hence natural selection keeps
down the size of the family exceptionally severely with
wandering savages. How? Probably in many ways,
one of which would be lengthening lactation,
which also fits in with facts. It is highly
improbable that a savage would lengthen lactation
in order to avoid pregnancy, consciously, I mean.
It would be interesting to know if the natural
size ^{of family} does increase as the savage becomes more
sedentary. You may say "I knew all this" or "I
don't believe it" or "it is interesting to note how
readily external conditions do modify the size
of the natural family". But perhaps you cannot
read this scroll at all.

Yours sincerely

L. Darwin.