

March 5th, 1936

Dear Major Darwin,

I think I mentioned some time ago that I had run into some rather disconcerting facts with regard to Mendel's celebrated paper on garden peas. I cannot claim to have cleared up very much, but the point which interested me first was whether Mendel had, as his account read literally would suggest, used pairs of varieties differing only in single factors. If he did this, it would show that he regarded a number of different characters in garden peas as separately heritable right from the start of his work, and did not discover this essential fact in the course of the experiments he reports.

I think at least my paper shows that he did in fact just what he said he did, and that the experiments were carried out as a demonstration for others, more than for his own enlightenment. There is, however, most disconcerting evidence of falsification in the data, which it would be scarcely reasonable to ascribe to Mendel, but which might be the work of a trusted assistant anxious to make the results conform with Mendel's expectations.

I am sending a typescript of my paper, which is appearing in a new journal, the Annals of Science, in case some of it may be of interest to you. I am in no hurry about its return, but expect to be able to replace it by an offprint in about a month.

Yours sincerely,