

June 25-29

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

You remember no doubt that I spoke to you about rejoining the R.S.S. After doing so I wrote to both Gule and Mallet, and the enclosed <sup>signed form</sup> are their practical replies, willingly sent. I should add, however, that they both sign on the supposition that you really wish to rejoin, Gule considering that it would be doubly unforunate if anything, even financial misadventure, were to lead you to resign for a second time. You know that it was I who suggested to you that it would be well that you should

rejoin, and that being the case,  
perhaps I may be allowed to explain  
very clearly what was in my  
mind in so doing. To take what  
was really a secondary consideration  
first, I knew that there had been  
some friction before your resignation,  
and I wanted to see that episode  
entirely forgotten <sup>by all</sup>, which would best  
be brought about by your quietly  
rejoining the Society. What was  
more in my mind was that it  
would be useful to you to be a  
member, and that you would be  
useful as a member. On that  
last point it was not your  
taking part in the management of  
the Society I had in mind, that  
might come, but I myself think  
that the leading men of science  
are apt to take up too much of

their valuable time in routine work needing only patience and perseverance. My father could not have done the work he did, but for his ill health keeping him free of routine work. You have one troublesome society on hand, and there more is needed, because it necessitates decisions in regard to policy. I don't want to be the cause of more of your time being frittered away, though I feel you could play a useful part in discussions or on committees in regard to questions especially interesting to you.

Now if you do decide that you yourself do really wish to rejoin the Society, I want you to do me a favour, and accept a life membership, as a birthday present from me

Then each time the journal reaches  
you after I have departed you  
will look on it as a little gift  
from me, and that thought would  
now give me real pleasure. I look  
on my money to some extent as a  
trust, and this is, I believe, a good way  
of fulfilling my trust. If you will  
do me this favour, send the enclosed  
at once to your bank, and also  
the enclosed letter form (filling in  
your name) to the R.S.S. When the  
election is completed - which I  
gather will not be for some months  
because there will be no meetings -  
send them a cheque for £21 drawn  
by yourself. No one, <sup>but</sup> you, I, and your  
wife ~~need~~ <sup>should</sup> know of this. Mallet  
and Gule neither have nor will have  
any idea of what I am suggesting.  
Now do accept this gift in the  
spirit in which it is made.

Yours sincerely

Leonard Darwin.