

Gunby Hall,  
Burgh-le-Marsh,  
Lincolnshire.  
November 19 1925.

My dear Fisher,

You very kindly said something to me a few days ago about reading my proofs, and, if the truth be told, I had previously been considering whether I could ask you to do so. But do you know what it would involve? I estimate the number of words as somewhere about 200,000; and if I have made no serious blunder, it would mean reading about 7,000 words a night for a month. Before you decide to renew your kind offer, may I say very plainly what is the part which I should feel it very valuable if you would play? It is no use trying to improve my style. A man's style is himself, and it had better be left to show itself, good or bad. What I want is help in avoiding howlers, such as I am not unlikely to make. These may take many forms, from illogical arguments, statistical mis-statements, etc., down to wrong use of words, bad grammar, etc. I have taken a great deal of trouble over the manuscript, and have carefully corrected a typewritten copy; and much correction will not, I hope, be needed. I have, indeed, in order to avoid cost, decided to have paged proofs printed straight away, and this makes heavy corrections or large omissions or additions troublesome. Where a correction is made, it should as far as may be take up equal space.

May I also say that I know that when looking over proofs for another person, one is apt to think one ought to suggest corrections. I remember reading the proofs of one of my father's books, and that I pleased him by making very few observations. The fewer they are the more the author rejoices. Of course you will disagree with me on some points, and I should be much interested to know where you differ in regard to the arguments I set forth. What I have tried to do is to show the general way in which I hold that racial questions should be approached; for I think that a few mistaken applications of sound principles do little harm. If you will kindly show me where you disagree in principles or arguments, I should be much obliged, but I am sure you will forgive me for not arguing the points, if any, which may arise, and for my sticking to my guns when I do so. These are the chief points to hold in view when deciding whether you will really undertake this tedious task of reading proofs.

One more question I must ask, and that is if you do undertake this job, whether you will allow me to celebrate the publication of my work by subscribing thirty guineas or so to your twin investigations. I should feel it anyhow a privilege to do so. The money must be needed by you in travelling expenses, clerical assistance, etc., and I should much like to push forward your work under the excuse of your assistance to me. Please do let me.

Possibly you will get a chance of reviewing my book somewhere. If so, don't scruple to make it a bit spicy by pitching in to me.

Lastly, I may add that Mrs. Hodson made much the same offer as you have done, and I think I shall accept her help. I feel as President of the Society a great responsibility in publishing, and want in consequence to take every care to avoid such blunders as could throw discredit on eugenics.

Yours sincerely,

*Demard Dawson*

Confidential.

Gunby Hall,  
Burgh-le-Marsh,  
Linos.

November, 19 1925.

Dear *Fisher*.

For several reasons I have been lately carefully considering the affairs of the Society. I have at the moment some leisure, whilst my book is going to the press. I have lately been impressed by the fact that if any question now arises suddenly, it must often be settled by correspondence between myself and Mrs. Hodson without consulting others, or must even be settled by Mrs. Hodson alone. Then again I have to say that I have heard different accounts of Mrs. Hodson's powers of lecturing, and this is a point on which our existing machinery makes it difficult for me to get information. She certainly failed at Eton; but then she was the first to tell me about it, the reason being ill health and an audience of a different character from what she expected. All other accounts I have had have been good.

I send you herewith a memorandum on various points not of such a confidential nature; and here I want to raise - not the narrow question of whether our admirable Secretary speaks well - but the large question of how the society should be run and especially as to whether we want new blood. I long to see an ideal president rise out of the earth, a man with sufficient time, strength and energy to push the propaganda side. I don't see him yet, but if others do I hope he may be brought forward.

Then as to possible names of recruits for the hon. staff. Mrs. Grant Duff is a keen eugenist; belongs to an influential circle, and is a charming person. But she has only recently joined the Council, and as a widow with 3 children cannot have much time to spare.

Col. James is energetic, will probably get into Parliament, and will have time to spare after Christmas. On the other hand we know little about him; and he might be troublesome by taking the bit between his teeth.

J. Hunley is another name that has occurred to me now that he lives in London, - for I think we do want some Londoners. One of us thinks very poorly of him if judged by his scientific work, I know. But that does not influence me personally very much; for I am looking to him only as a person perhaps capable of pushing the propoganda side of the work. He seems to have powers in that direction; but I feel to know too little about him.

Now I don't ask for answers proportionate in length to what I write. In the first instance I should be content if you would tell me if you think good might come of a private meeting of the hon. officers of the Society only, without Mrs. Hodson. If so I would try to arrange it. Or have you any other suggestion as to the real practical step, if any, which should be taken in order to decide if any change is needed in our methods.

Yours sincerely,

*Herbert Dawson*