

& Emma very great pleasure to see you here, but I hope that you will stay the night with us. You give but a poor account of your own health.<sup>3</sup> I hope that what you fear is not the case. I have known quite a large number of men who the D<sup>rs</sup> declared (falsely as it afterwards appeared) to have had their hearts affected; & how many men there are who live to good old age although their hearts are certainly affected.

There is so much detail in my book that you will never be able to read it through; but some of the chapters, such as that on Reversion are I think curious. You will find several facts given on your authority.<sup>4</sup>

Believe me my dear old friend | yours very sincerely | Charles Darwin

LS

Christ's College Library, Cambridge (Fox 148).

<sup>1</sup> The year is established by the relationship between this letter and the letter from W. D. Fox, 3 February [1868].

<sup>2</sup> CD refers to George Howard Darwin. See letter from W. D. Fox, 3 February [1868] and n. 2.

<sup>3</sup> See letter from W. D. Fox, 3 February [1868].

<sup>4</sup> CD discussed reversion in the second of his chapters on inheritance in *Variation*, 2: 28-61. He cited Fox for information on various domestic animals in *Variation*.

From J. E. Gray 6 February 1868

Brit. Mus  
Feb 6 1868

My Dear Darwin

Nathusius is not in any of the London Libraries I have sent to the Royal Zoological, Linnean, & our own without effect— I should like to see your copy<sup>1</sup> I will not keep it more than a week, so that your carrier can call for it again.<sup>2</sup>

It is too late for me to refer to it I fear, but as the subject is fresh in my head, it would be interesting to see it<sup>3</sup> I find the skull of all the Domestic Pig from different countries & breeds very much alike

You make so few references to the Knowsley Menagery & my monograph of *Ungulates* in the Museum Catalogue that I suspect you have not the {facility} of referring to it.<sup>4</sup> I will send a copy of the work back by your carrier when he comes on Thursday.

I wish there were more references to the present state of Zoology, founded on the examination of Specimens & I think you would have found that Mr Blyth poor man is scarcely trustworthy about cats, &c &c, especially since his malady—<sup>5</sup> He came here the other day when I had a set of the skulls of Indian or rather asiatic Rhinocerates on the table He said at once this is *R. Indicus* that *R. sondaicus*, when all he was looking at were *R. Indicus* the set of *R. Sondaicus* being on the other table which he had not seen.<sup>6</sup>

It is the same with respect to *Felis chaus* he say the Indian one in the Garden is exactly like the *F. Chaus* of Egypt., they are unlike in skull, sizes of eyes Tail &c as can be, the Indian chaus been the same as *F. caffer* & *F. caligulata* which are all one species—<sup>7</sup>

Ever Yours sincerely | J. E. Gray

You do not seem to be aware of the African Zebu *Bos dante* which is the Zebu of Egypt—<sup>1</sup> figured in the /Hieroglyphics/ & still found in W Africa

You mention instances of insanity be Hereditary<sup>2</sup> It is doubtless so but some cases shew a curiously /illeg<sup>3</sup>

I knew & indeed had some things to do with them, as the 3 children of a dead friend. The Husbands of two of the sisters, died insane the third sister died insane or Idiotic, unmarried.

DAR 165: 214

CD ANNOTATION

*Top of letter:* 'I cannot read all | I do not know your Catalogue of Ungulates - Send by /2 words illeg<sup>4</sup>'

- <sup>1</sup> Gray refers to Nathusius 1864 and to the libraries of the Royal Society, Zoological Society, and Linnean Society of London. See letter from J. E. Gray, 4 February 1868. CD's annotated copy of Nathusius 1864 is in the Darwin Library-CUL (see *Marginalia* 1: 630-5).
- <sup>2</sup> George Snow operated a carrier service between Down and London (Freeman 1978).
- <sup>3</sup> Gray had just presented a paper on the taxonomy of pigs at the Zoological Society of London; it was published in the society's *Proceedings* (J. E. Gray 1868).
- <sup>4</sup> Gray produced two volumes with the title *Cleanings from the menagerie and aviary at Knowlesy Hall* (J. E. Gray 1846 and 1850), and a catalogue of the Ungulata in the British Museum (J. E. Gray 1852a). The *Cleanings* are cited in *Variation* 2: 42, 149, 157. These works are not in the Darwin Libraries at CUL or at Down. CD ordered J. E. Gray 1846 or 1850 in a letter to a librarian with the conjectured date of 27 October [1846 or 1848?] (*Correspondence* vol. 3).
- <sup>5</sup> Edward Blyth evidently spent a period in a private asylum during 1865 and 1866. See *Correspondence* vol. 14, letter from W. B. Tegetmeier, [after 24 January 1866]. His health problems are discussed in Brandon-Jones 1995 and 1997. He is cited extensively in *Variation*, and supplied much information on cats (*Variation* 1: 43-5, 48).
- <sup>6</sup> *Rhinoceros indicus*, the great Indian rhinoceros from India and Nepal, is a synonym of *Rhinoceros unicornis* (Rookmaaker 1983). *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, the Javan rhinoceros, was originally found in south-east Asia, Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, and east India. Blyth had written a memoir on the rhinoceros in which he discussed *R. indicus* and *R. sondaicus* (Blyth 1862). Gray had produced a taxonomy of the genus based on specimens in the British Museum (J. E. Gray 1867a).
- <sup>7</sup> Gray wrote a series of papers on cat taxonomy in 1867 (J. Gray 1867b, 1867c, 1867d), one of which criticised Blyth's classification of the wild cats of India and Africa (J. E. Gray 1867d). Blyth had published a paper on the wild cats of India (Blyth 1856), and remarks on specimens sent to the museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (Blyth 1856). CD's discussion of cats in *Variation* drew on Blyth 1856 among other publications. For a modern taxonomy of wild cats, see Nowell and Jackson eds. 1996, pp. 307-13. *Felis chaus* is the jungle cat, which ranges from north-east Africa to south-east Asia. *Felis caffer* (or *F. cafrus*) is now considered a variety of *F. silvestris tigris*, the African wildcat. Gray may also refer to *F. silvestris ornata* (the Asian steppe cat, which is found in India). *Felis caliginata* (or more commonly *F. maniculata*) is a name that appears in Henri Marie Ducrotay de Blainville's *Ostéographie*, based on a mummified specimen found in Egypt (Blainville 1841: 55, 3; 89-90, 177; see also *Variation* 1: 42).
- <sup>8</sup> CD had referred in *Variation* 1: 79 to all humped cattle inhabiting tropical countries as Indian zebu, or *Bos indicus*. Gray had classed zebus found in Africa as *Bos dante* in his catalogue of the Ungulata in the British Museum (J. E. Gray 1852, pp. 22-3).
- <sup>9</sup> CD discussed inherited insanity in *Variation* 2: 7, 78.