

Rev Mr Sargent

Spawid. England 8 Sept 1897

Sept 97

Dear Sir William

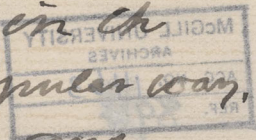
I believe my name is known to you, as I think I had occasion to write to you for some reason when you were in England, though you had probably forgotten it. But I am taking advantage of this circumstance to venture to ask a great favor of you. I shall send, by the same post as this, the typographed manuscript of a small book on the Evolution theories of Darwin and others. Very little of it is my own. It is mainly a kind of abridgment of two works of De Quatrefoy, which have not been, and I find are not likely to be, translated; and, which, though well known in France where ^{Evolution is} embraced by hardly any leading Scientists, are, I think, very little known in England. In my own mind they seem, as did

De Quatrefages' reviews of Darwin in
the Revue des deux Mondes on which the
earlier of the books is based, quite decisive
on the question. But for many years
no one has been listened to in England
who ventures to question what is
looked upon as orthodox physiology on
this subject. If I publish this little
volume, I have no intention of
publishing it with my name, though
I have put it in the preface that you
may identify the manuscript with
this letter. But my name, not being
that of a Scientist, and being that of
a Clergyman, would hinder instead
of helping it. Seeley's house would
publish it, the head of the house
being interested in the subject.

But there are two difficulties.

The book would require the
permission of the representatives
of De Quatrefages, which I hope
the Publishers would be able to
obtain. But then a book
published without a name

on the unpopular side of a subject
seems to require some testimonial
from some well known scientific
authority, not necessarily as to his
adoption of the same view, but as
to its being deserving of consideration,
and having a right to claim not to
be put aside as unworthy of notice.
Mr. Seeley feels the necessity of this,
to give the book any chance of being
read, and my object in writing is
to ask you, if on reading it you
think it worth publishing, to be
so kind as to write to me what
you think, and to allow me to
make any public use of what you
write which may seem desirable.
It is out of my ordinary line.
Though since I left Cambridge,
where my studies were mainly
mathematical and scientific, I
have kept up an interest in the
progress of science in a popular way,
all my serious pursuits and
all my writings have been



of a theological character; and I
should not myself care to publish
a book on a subject of this kind,
unless it were such as to meet
with a measure of approval from
some one, like yourself, able properly
to judge. And yet I feel I hardly
ought to ask you to take this
trouble.

Yours very truly,

Samuel Parrall.

I am always delighted to
read any of your books. One of your
older books Archana left an
uneffaceable mark on my mind.

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