March 16. 33
Chipp's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

Dear Fisher,

I write to you because I have nothing to do!!! So don't trouble yourself to answer. In the"distress of yesterday" in Prof. Macnaghten's broadcast talk about my father. It is generally very nice in tone and merits praise, I think. But I doubt if she thoroughly understands natural selection. She says in effect that civilized man is protected by fools the in such a way as to make it difficult for selection to act. But civilized man can only check selection by lowering the birth rate or increasing supplies. The contest between two armed men for survival might be just as severe, or
more severe, than that between two
naked savages. The slogan of the
surviving the fittest—has been too
often used, she says, "to justify
the oppression of the poor by the
rich." Where, I wonder? I suspect, like
Haldane, Hughes & Goebbels, she
would like to get her knife into
me. But I believe it—has been both
right and politic for me to say
what seems to me to be the truth.

And I suspect that underlying and
probably unconscious motive is to
carry forward with Socialists by
attacks such as me,—and then
to go a long way in following what
I have suggested. Well, no more
of this.

I have written something or
free with and on the uniformity,
of uncleared characters. I want them to be read by at least two persons! And I shall I suggest sacrifice you on the altar as one of them!

Have you seen enclosed? I find them difficult to understand. Her error, I take it, is that if he cannot see the use of a structure which is developing into an obviously useful structure, he not only denies that it is useful, but also that it can be correlated with some other useful growth. I suppose in nearly every case a useful structure has sprung from something useful for some other purpose.

I hope all goes well with you — but don't expect an answer. — Yours sincerely,

Leonard Darwin