My dear Fisher,

I did not answer your "argumentative" letter, as I was not permitted — or I was lazy. I wish we could have a real good jaw over some of these points. I don't hold out strongly about tropical forests, and would only make two points. Do not both the Yangs and Yangtse valleys have cool seasons? Then it seems to me that the very luxuriance of growth in the all-round hot and damp climate seems to increase the
difficult of cultivation, and would make it only possible at a low standard of living. But I don't feel sure. As to your bricks and food, the difference seems to me to lie in the fact that the amount of food which per head is strictly limited, whilst the amount of goods which might help to raise the standard of living, including leisure, is quite unlimited. Calculate the percentage of sex in a naked savage deprived on her food and on other things, and the same with civilized person, and you point would stand out. Each item of food may not have been helped more
than separate items of other things. I am looking at food as a whole versus other things as a whole. The question seems to me to be to what extent the population can be increased whilst maintaining our standard of living. The land at the margin of cultivation must be one important factor. I have no doubt a considerable increase can slowly be made by more correct land being made available, but one inclined to think that the possibilities have been much suggested. As to unemployment, as far as I can see no one would be unemployed if all could take the best pay they could get. It is all a question of keeping up the standard of living. Surely if bad land is cultivated and bad
trade, carried on, it assists the unemployed in a useful manner, but it does not allow unemployment to act as a regulator to prevent a fall in the standard. Now I had intended to have said nothing, and now I have jotted down some half-baked thoughts.

As to free trade, we should have a full fight, for some of your reasons for are my reasons against! Please I admit, however, that free traders generally over-state their case. Some of the indirect results would be the worst, e.g., political corruption. Better be true. D. Daudas.

Yours truly,
D. Daudas.