Dr R. A. Fisher  
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Dear Dr Fisher,  

How soon do you expect to have your new book out? I am quite intrigued by the outlined content of its first chapter. Will the rest of the book deal with the purely bio-statistical matters in line with your earlier works in Mendelian theory, or will it be a study in genesis and development of Darwin's and Mendel's own ideas? I like to speculate that it will do both.  

You did not attempt to prepare the readers for reception of this work. I looked through many a periodical accessible here and could not find any direct reference to this new undertaking. Instead, I found the Nature's correspondence which ensued the review of the Statistical Methods for Research Workers and the queer uncalled-for note of K. Pearson. I begin to dislike certain ways of this venerable gentleman.  

Using my best judgment I am sending you the abridged sketch of the per-capita essay. I would really like to know what you think about it. Is it worth while? Please, tell it frankly, with or without reasons why. A critical word from you means more to me than the credits and recognition I get here. You know, indeed,
there are times when magnanimous encouragement and partial indulgence is more cruel in the long run than a downright sharp criticism made by a worthy man. Our correspondence is and will remain a purely private affair, and, therefore, no social responsibilities are to be attached to it. As to me, I think it is not too late to change my trend of study.

It is somewhat embarrassing to force upon you the matter of appraising the work of a stranger beyond the seas. There is no justification for doing it, except in the half-forgotten ideals of the relation between the real men of science and the younger students. But even the length of this justification can hardly cover twenty-five pages of abstract discussion in methodology.

Keep the paper as long as you feel like, I shall not have any time to work on it during next month. And then, perhaps, it will be left alone.

In two weeks or so I shall have printed my first somewhat slumy work in psychological statistics written as a term paper in my junior year in college. It was sent away by the head of the department and... eventually I may be sorry for letting it appear in print. But up to then,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]