

Copy to  
Appleton  
July 1906

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

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|-------------------|------|
| MCGILL UNIVERSITY |      |
| ARCHIVES          |      |
| ACC. NO.          | 1463 |
| REF.              | 1009 |

*[Faint handwritten notes and markings at the bottom of the page, including the word 'Appleton' and some illegible scribbles.]*

Aug 21/96

Shrewsbury, Park Ferry  
Birkenhead  
England

Gentlemen,

Your circular of Aug 5,  
forwarded to me from Manchester  
reaches me at this place. While  
most earnestly desiring to promote  
Science, two difficulties occur to me  
in the way of complying with your  
kind request. The first is the  
apparent impertinence of any  
consideration on my part of  
Men so eminent and well  
known as those you mention.  
The second is the importance given  
in your circular to "Evolutionary  
Philosophy" which in my judgment  
is not Science, but in some  
respects its antipodes and which  
must inevitably like all similar  
things D Appleton & Co.

attempts since the time of  
the old Greek philosophers to  
explain all things by one  
partially applicable hypothesis  
eventually disappear or be  
reduced to small applications  
as the knowledge of nature  
advances. If therefore any  
endorsement of mine could  
contribute to give currency to  
this purely subjective and  
imaginary philosophy I should  
certainly be unwilling to give  
such endorsement.

Permit me further to  
say as an old student  
of Nature that as several  
of the men mentioned in  
your circular have made

read and great contributions  
to the advance of Science  
there is ample material  
in their writings for your  
purpose without entering  
into their advocacy of  
fallacies like Natural  
Selection &c. so regard to  
which it will be a  
subject of attachment  
twenty years hence know  
men so able should have  
been so far led astray  
In this of course I do  
not include Spencer who  
can scarcely be reckoned as  
a Science man.

Excuse the above for  
repetition of opinion, and believe  
me  
Yours sincerely  
W. Darwin