Feb. 6th 1881

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT.
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

Dear Professor Semper

Owing to the sorts of work I have
just a now finished reading from "Nat.
Conditions of Existence", although a
book of small size it contains
an astonishing amount of matter; &
I have been particularly struck
with the originality with which
you treat so many subjects, & at
the same time accuracy. In fact
the greater number of points I quite
know you in your conclusions; but
I differ on some, & I suppose that
no two men in the world would

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT
RAILWAY STATION
OPENED 1 JUNE 1892

fully agree on 11 many difficult

subjects. I have been criticised

on so many points, I can

hardly say on which most.

Perhaps as much as for geography.

Classification as on any other,

especially in relation to Wagner

[no, no! about parasites inclined

even more]. How strange

that Wagner 12°. have thought the

struggle for existence, struggle for food

I meant by struggle ~~battle~~.

It is curious that he 12°. not

how thought of the radical adaptations

for a discussion of seeds & the fertilization of plants. —

Again I was much interested
& entertained
about Branchipus: when I visited
in perfect
one years ago the original
pool,
pool, I could not avoid
thinking. The same special ex-
hereditary
ample would be found for
so various a case: I selected
rejected
rather a species liable to
repeated & great changes of
conditions, might not often
a fluctuating condition, ready
to be adapted to either
conditions. — With respect to

Arctic animals, being white,
(p. 116 of our book)
it might perhaps be worth
while
your looking at what I say
from Dallas & my own observations
in Labrador (second & main
editions) Ch. 8 p 229 & Ch. 18
p. 542. ——

I quite agree with what I gather
to be your judgment, viz that the
direct action of the conditions
of life on organisms, or the
most important of our subjects for future
care of their variability, for
some of
some few years I have been
thinking I can see a set of

Cowper?

I experiments on Plants, for I almost invariably vary them cultivated. I fancy that I see my way with it and I continued self-fertilisation. But I am too old a hen at Thought enough. Besides the hope vicariously pursues. Finally, let me thank you for the kind manner in which you often refer to my works, & for the even flattering manner in which you have written me.

With cordial thanks for
the pleasure & instruction
which I owe
from your book, I remain
my dear Professor Semper
Yours truly
Charles Darwin
My son Francis begs to be
very kindly remembered to
you.