

23 May
1896

I. A. 3.3.
3 Hanover Square
W
London

My dear Peppie Whitman.

The length of time which has elapsed since I received your very kind & interesting letter without a rejoinder from me, has vexed me very much. It has not, however, been due to want of will to write, but to a physical defect. About six weeks ago (when I was on the eve of writing to you) I was suddenly seized by "double vision" to an extent which made either reading or writing a very great trouble.

It has been slowly getting better ^{now} & I take the first available opportunity to write to you.

I am glad you recognize that Dr. Purder's words pretty well justified mine.

I am entirely with you in
affirming the value & utility
of all embryological & all
physiological research, provided
they are not regarded as able to
afford a knowledge of the ultimate
truths accessible to the intellect.
I gladly & heartily echo your saying
that as a knowledge of the cell
has cleared up much, so may
reliable results be expected
from the close study of its minutest
constituents. One would be very
foolish ^{also} to deny not only the
utility but the necessity of hypo-
theses & speculations as to what
is beyond vision, but I think
you will agree with me that one
may carry the proof of "speculating
hypothesis" too far, & in this
I must confess I think Prof.
Weismann has erred. I am
entirely with you as regards
physical - biological - science
& the attentive personal & personal

of your valuable letter shows me
that the difference between us is certainly
as I suspect it was, & purely philo-
sophical difference, 30 years
ago I was about where I imagine(?)
you are - at all events I came to
my philosophy through Mills, Bain,
Lewes, Spencer &c. & it was a
long time before I could work
my way through it & out on the
other side. (I think I had done that,
never had intellectual peace &
satisfaction. For me, Monism is
entirely unsatisfactory & I am con-
vinced I have direct intuitions
of things extended & material as
well as of what is essentially immaterial
- namely my perceptions of absolute,
universal & necessary truths & ethical
distinctions. As to material things,
I am ^{also} convinced there is nothing,
merely passive - nothing that is
not, & that is not, full of energy.
I trouble you with these remarks
simply to explain my position &
in response to what you say. For
that, I am very much obliged, &
would be most interesting to me
to know further about your

philosophical position; if you care
to know mine you will find
it set out in a book I published

I think in 1889 — entitled
"On Truth" which is to be
seen, here & there, in the United
States. With warm thanks
for your letter & every kind
& best love I am

Dear Professor Whitman
Yours very sincerely
St. C. Mearns