

9 February 1943

Dear Henry,

I am enclosing a copy of three excerpts from Prichard's book on the physical history of mankind. I was wrong in thinking it was the first edition; it is the second and both volumes are marked 1826. His statement on inheritance which he ascribes to Mr Grainger could scarcely be bettered. The other two excerpts I have picked out from a long discussion which has perhaps been more readily overlooked since it comes after the body of the book in which the races of mankind are described continent by continent.

(P.T.O.)

I think it would be fair to say that he had grasped the principle of Natural Selection in its negative sense, i.e. the only sense admitted by advocates of mutation-theory and the early Mendellians, but had not appreciated it as a cause of positive improvement or adaptation. I think he thought adaptive mutations would be necessary and were in fact an essential part of the process of creation, which however he recognised, in spite of the indications of Genesis, as having continued after the period of Noah's flood.

When you have time I hope you'll borrow the book.

- Yours sincerely,