

Berlin, 4th Jan. 1898.

NW Bruckenkasse 31

20.

Dear Prof. Spencer,

If you should write something about Darwinism, the work of Eimer will be, perhaps, useful for you, it deals with natural selection of butterflies. The price is 20 sh. and it is to be got, as most books in Germany are, without knowing the name of the publisher. Mr. Eimer is a very good zoologist and yet a young man, he is professor at Tübingen in Württemberg, South-Germany. He has found out the blue lizards at Capri which now-a-days are all destroyed by the zeal of the zoological collectors. He has also demonstrated something

about the stripes on the skin of eels.
 previous, I believe he had found them
 on young huns of some species,
 myself was always of opinion, in
 regarding of butterflies, that they have
 got their colours by feeding on water,
 pillars, not by sexual selection, but
 the most of their colours are caused
 by chemical substances.

I have read of the last cyclon in
 Victoria, also of the great fire in
 Elizabethstreet. In Sydney died
 some weeks ago a Mr. Max, lecturer
 of french language at the University,
 a born German of an old Silesian
 family. He was my fellow passenger

when I came to Australia.

I have found no difficulty in standing
 the heat of the Red Sea, but it was
 very warm only during two days. Here
 the winter is very warm this year,
 my skin is yet always somewhat
 delicate, made so by the tropical sun.

I hope you are all right and have
 had a joyous holy season. Here
 talks every body about John China,
 man whom they do not like, it seems,
 in Sydney. I send my compliments
 to Prof. Martin, his aboriginal bones
 did arrive all right here.

Yours very truly
 W. Howase

10 **Eimer, Th. u. C. Fickert**, Entstehung d. Arten II. Theil: Orthogenesis der Schmetterlinge. Ein Beweis bestimmt gerichteter Entwicklung u. Ohnmacht der natürl. Zuchtwahl bei der Artbildung. Zugleich eine Erwiderung an A. Weismann. Leipz. 898. Mit 2 Tfn. u. 235 Abb. M. 18.—, Hfz.