

intelligible arrangement.  
It is a great misfortune that  
the opportunity of doing something  
better was lost when so much  
money was being spent.

I think I shall still cut a  
line to Nature about it, but  
that is dreadfully busy just  
now.

Believe me  
Very truly

W. H. Flower



2769\*

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON: S.W.

Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1891

My dear General

Thank you for your  
letter in the Salisbury  
paper. I am glad to  
have a copy of the lecture,  
as I had not seen it before.

It is very curious that  
your plan of a second  
archaeological museum is

exactly similar bone  
which I have had for some  
time in view but never  
published. As a natural-  
history museum which  
should combine ~~itself~~ with  
living forms in an orderly  
and instructive manner

The sketch opposite will  
give a rough idea, although  
I have worked out the plan  
in greater detail



The galleries could of course be  
top lights, & into free communication  
one into another.

The building in which I am  
am is perfectly hopeless for  
any truly scientific or even

November 9th, 1891.

Dear Professor Flower,

I did not know that you had special views with respect to a circular building, though I can quite understand that the same idea would independently suggest itself to any one studying the arrangement of a Museum for archaeological or natural history purposes, on the principle of displaying evolution. The concentric circles adapt themselves both by their size and position, for the exhibition of the expanding varieties of an evolutionary arrangement. When I first mooted the subject, in my address to the Anthropological Section at the Bath Meeting, Evans, who I think approved of the idea, said he thought it was remote of realisation, and so no doubt it may be, but I feel as certain as possible that, eventually, it will be done. Your present building will be used for something else, <sup>or it might be converted into a Nat. History Reference Museum</sup> and we shall have two large Rotunda as Educational Museums, one for Natural History, and one for the Arts. For the Arts, to which of course I confine my suggestions, the Museum should consist chiefly, if not entirely, of reproductions and models; so as not to interfere with the Reference Museums, and also because, by using reproductions, a better selection can be made of those forms which display evolution. It would not of course be attempted to include everything, otherwise something like the World's size, would be required to exhibit the whole history of the World's products, but the series would be confined to those branches, in which continuity could be best displayed; and I am also much impressed with the belief, that models explaining the genesis of the objects exhibited, will take a large place in future exhibitions.

In my small way here, I have carried out this plan, in my new little Museum in the Village of Farnham, where I have now about 40 models showing the position of things discovered, the relics being exhibited in the cases adjoining. I hope some day to show you this little Museum, to which I have lately added a new room; though of course, on so small a scale, it would be useless to attempt a circular arrangement. Twice the sum that Mr. Blundell Maple gave a few days ago for a horse, £40,000, that might die to-morrow, would be enough to build a suitable structure in iron and glass, that might be built of stone afterwards.

I wish it might be brought about.

*Yours truly*  
*A. Pitt Rivers.*