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25th October, 1951.

Professor A. Fisher, F.R.S.,
44 Storey's Way,
CAMBRIDGE.

My dear Ron,

How good of you to have produced something straight away for Julian's book. Your typescript has only reached me this morning so I have not yet had the pleasure of going through it. This I shall do with very much interest, and I know with great profit.

I wish indeed that a second edition of the *Genetical Theory* could be produced, but the present article may be a way of covering one aspect of that, as you suggest. It is very extraordinary, you know, how a great book may have a profound influence on a subject and still sell quite few copies. I judge that the *Genetical Theory* has had an influence on the evolutionary aspect of Biology more profound than anything that has been produced this Century. I suspect that the number of biologists who have read it is really quite few but, of course, the point is that all the best ones have done so. It has coloured not only their writings, as we can all see by reference, but, far more important, it has quite obviously coloured subconsciously their thoughts. In the ordinary way it is disappointing to an author when a book does not sell well, but the present circumstances are quite exceptional. If not another copy were sold, that book has been worth its weight in gold to us all.

I shall have to approach the publishers formally in regard to the point about the right, without further discussion or negotiation, to reprint this article at any later time. I don't imagine that any difficulty will arise in that way, but obviously we must have the matter in black and white at the outset.

I have in mind your most kind invitation to come over to Cambridge for a day or two and will shortly write about it. I think you will probably forgive me for my delay for, as you know, I started up things here on the 1st October, and it is rather necessary for me to remain in close personal touch throughout the first few weeks.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.