

L<sup>d</sup> Hooker re Fitch 294

Royal Gardens,

Kew.

Jan. 4 1882

Dear Mr Darwin

You are most kind  
& I am most delighted  
to be able to send poor  
Mrs Fitch such a  
nice little purse of  
money.

Thank you many times  
too for saying it may  
apply to you again

should it be necessary.  
I hope there may be no  
occasion for me to do so,  
but still I fear that  
as Fitch grows older  
& more blind he will  
grow poorer. How he  
& his family manage  
to get on is a mystery  
to us, for in his letter

Copy of original letter  
from Hyacinth Hooker (2nd  
wife of the head of Kew Gardens)  
to Charles Darwin. The data-  
base says it refers to Adam  
& Harriet Fitch. However as  
there is no mention of their  
christian names within the text  
I am daring to check with the  
Cambridge Univ. library that  
it does in fact refer to Adam/Harriet.  
There are 2 other Fitch's on the  
database - Robert F. & Walter Hood F.  
If it is Adam then it begs many  
more questions!!

days he spent all his <sup>295</sup>  
gains & has nothing  
laid by to fall back  
upon.

He has been foolish  
& improvident - no doubt;  
but he has done a great  
deal of good work in  
his day & has been a  
hard worker too.

Yours gratefully & sincerely  
Hyacinth Hooker  
My love, please, to your ladies.