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Cape Town, 28 Sept 1868.

My dear Mr. May,

This letter is to ask
you to help a great
friend of mine and at
the same time my first
cousin, in his scientific
researches. Professor Ernst

Haeckel of Jena
is a zoologist, whose
researches have won
him the esteem and
the friendship of Mr.
Charles Darwin, Professor

Dr. J. May Esq.
Lieutenant H. M. S. "Lightning"

Huxley and other eminent
scientists and authorities
in England. The way in
which you can help him,
he will indicate to you ^{the case}
himself. If (as may be)
your service in the "Light-
ning" is at an end already
before this reaches you,
some of its scientific
results may still be
at your disposal in the
shape of material; or
otherwise you may
tell Professor Haeckel,
how he may best attain
what

what he desires. - I have
been greatly interested
to hear from time to
time of some of your
doings through the
newspapers, - and regard
your continual activity
as the best sign of your
wellbeing. - Matters at
the Cape are a little
more hopeful. With the
prospect of gold and
diamonds, the despairing
tone of our political
economists has faded
away. - I am hard at work
at

D. J. May Esq. BL151 C12.6
Lieutenant H. M. Sh. "Rankin"
for service in H. M. S. "Lightning"
care of the Hydrographer to her
admiralty
Whitehall London

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at my grammatical
work, of which I trust
to publish a second part
in six months. Then I
have an idea of visiting
Europe for a short
time; and may therefore
possibly meet you too
next summer. But this
is still an uncertain
plan. - Trusting that
this meets your and
Mrs. May in good health
believe me,

very dear Mr. May
very truly yours
W. H. J. Bleek