

1        *Organs of extreme Perfection and Complication.*—To suppose that  
2 the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to  
3 different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for  
4 the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been  
5 formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the high-  
6 est possible degree. Yet reason tells me, that if numerous gradations  
7 from a perfect and complex eye to one very imperfect and simple, each  
8 grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist; if further,  
9 the eye does vary ever so slightly, and the variations be inherited,  
10 which is certainly the case; and if any variation or modification in the  
11 organ be ever useful to an animal under changing conditions of life,  
12 then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be  
13 formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination,  
14 can hardly be considered real. How a nerve comes to be sensitive to  
15 light, hardly concerns us more than how life itself first originated; but  
16 I may remark that several facts make me suspect that any sensitive  
17 nerve may be rendered sensitive to light, and likewise to those coarser  
18 vibrations of the air which produce sound.

19 (...)

Charles Darwin, *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*. London: John Murray, 1859. Chap. VI. *Difficulties on theory*. pp 186-187.