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THE MISSING LINK IN THE HYPOTHESIS OF EVOLUTION, OR DERIVATIVE CREATION.

BY HON. DAVID MILLS, LL.B., Q.C., M.P.

I DO not know that I have done wisely in venturing to discuss a subject which lies within the domain of physical science, to a special knowledge of which I make no claim. It is a subject, however, upon which I, like other unscientific readers, have formed opinions not at all in accord with those confidently put forward by men who may be regarded as best qualified to speak authoritatively. The views of Darwin, of Huxley, and of Wallace, are well known. Mr. Mivart, in a large measure, agrees with them. Perhaps of the eminent scientific men of our day, Professor Owen is almost the only one who has not been drawn into the current, and who has not cut himself adrift from the theory of design, and the doctrine of direct creation, and to my mind, he is the most convincing of the writers I have named.

The subject of the origin of life is, to many, a subject of very great interest; to others it possesses no interest at all. There are very many intelligent people who are astonished that scientific men adhere to the hypothesis that man has descended in point of time, and ascended in point of structure and intelligence, from some inferior form of organic life.

They cannot help thinking that holding to such an opinion is an evidence of intellectual weakness or of moral perversion. They regard it as an indication of a desire on the part of scientists to place themselves in antagonism to the Christian religion.

I will not say that this opinion is wholly without foundation. Conclusions are sometimes drawn from imperfect data; but I may observe that the theories of evolution and of natural selection, as explanations of the genesis of species, are not so obviously untenable as to justify their immediate rejection. On the contrary, they are very specious; so much so, that to most students of modern science, they appear like truisms.

It is my purpose in this article to bring under the attention of my readers some of the phenomena of life and its environments upon which the doctrine of evolution rests. I purpose also to state why, I think, the conclusions drawn are not warranted by the facts. I shall endeavor to point out many facts which evolution cannot explain. It is safe to say, that any scientific hypothesis, which can satisfactorily account for the facts, which observation brings under our