

which, if witnessed, would have appeared to be exactly the same natural and unmiraculous operation of cause and effect with which we are familiar. After the first creative act, what is described is the formation of earth and its tenants out of a disorderly mass of matter; and this is represented as having been accomplished by movements within the mass itself, that is to say, by means of second causes." This is the theory which the book works out with some ability and ingenuity. If it is not altogether new, it is at least modern. We cannot say we are convinced of its truth. We have no faith in unscientific treatments of the physical phenomena of the universe, or in unlearned criticisms of the sacred text. No man should attempt the discussions of the topics contained in this book who has not had practical acquaintance with the subjects which it involves. The idea of all pervading law in the production of physical phenomena is that which Baden Powell attempts to demonstrate with rare ability in his recent works. We do not recognise any special feature in the "Nuggets from the oldest Diggins" that entitles it to a very high rank in the literature of the subject on which it treats. It may be read with interest by the curious, and be regarded as another addition to the unsuccessful attempts to settle the disputed interpretation of the Mosaic cosmogony.

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ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES BY MEANS OF NATURAL SELECTIONS, OR THE PRESERVATION OF FAVOURED RACES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE. By CH. DARWIN, M.A., &c., &c. *New York*: D. Appleton & Co. *Montreal*: B. Dawson & Son.

This is an abstract of a larger work in course of preparation. It is entitled to most careful perusal. The author is a well known and distinguished Naturalist. He has given much attention to and spent now twenty years of his life in the prosecution of the subject of this book. The title is a good description of its contents. It deals with questions of Natural History in a way most masterly and profound. That its views will meet with much opposition is to be expected. Few will be disposed to go the sweeping length to which our author is disposed to go in the logical issue of his theory. We merely call attention to this able work in the mean time. It promises to create quite a furor in the minds of scientific enquirers. We hope to present our readers with a thorough review of the work either from the pen of one of the Editors, or from the pages of one of the earliest scientific magazines of Europe or America.