

the dissemination of each seed, and such other events have all been specially ordained for some special purpose." As I have said before, we must remember that Darwin does not trace man's descent from any existing ape, but holds that both have descended from a common ancestor now extinct, the modern ape having retained more of the characteristics of the parent form than man. He shows that the original tail and pointed ears exist in man in an aborted or rudimentary state, and are much more prominent in the embryo than in the adult. To the action of sexual selection he attributes both the want of hair, and its peculiarities of growth and varieties of texture and colour. Although he is quite conscious of the difficulties surrounding the question, he holds that both man's superior mental qualities and his superior moral qualities can be traced to evolution acting through natural and sexual selection, just as in the case of domesticated animals, where we know that mental qualities are variable, and the variations are inherited. Upon this point of course many will disagree with him, even those who are quite willing to accept the doctrine of evolution in regard to *material* forms. Although Darwin's investigations led him to believe in the unity of the human race, yet he did not regard mankind as the descendants of a single pair, but held rather, that a whole tribe of ancient quadrumana gradually acquired human characteristics. Of the anatomical resemblances between man and the existing apes a great deal has been written; and here I will only say what every comparative anatomist knows, that the structural differences between the lower and higher apes are far greater than between the latter and man. This subject of the Descent of Man is probably the most interesting part of the theory of evo-

lution, to a popular audience; but I must hurry on, having made this brief allusion to it.

Mr. Darwin's more recent volumes are on the "Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals," published in 1872; "Insectivorous Plants," in 1875; "Cross and Self-fertilization in the Vegetable Kingdom," in 1876; "Different Forms of Flowers in Plants of the Same Species," in 1877; "Movements of Plants," in 1880; and his last work, in 1882, on the "Formation of Vegetable Mould, through the Action of Worms, with Observations on their Habits."

The main object of all these works has been to supply the data upon which he founded the great conclusions of the "Origin of Species," and they all combine to illustrate the incessant and infinite interaction of the various parts of nature upon each other, and the way in which the most noticeable results have been produced by causes seemingly unimportant, but all powerful in their gradual accumulation.

Before closing I must say just a word on his latest work. It is curious to note that one of his first published papers was upon the very same subject. In 1837 he read a paper before the Geological Society of London on the "Formation of Mould," which, as in the present work, he attributes mainly to the agency of earthworms. This fact is an admirable instance of the continuity of Mr. Darwin's thought and writings. Each work is the result of years of patient labour, and it is this which gives such value and weight to his writings. For more than forty years he was engaged in investigations on the subject of the formation of mould, and in working out the idea that earthworms are among the most powerful forces of nature, and that they play a very important part in the physical changes of the earth's surface. His first