

to the people of to-day; that the more we learn of prehistoric man, the farther we are removed from the theory of progressive development. No doubt we are becoming more civilized. No doubt we are attaining to clearer conceptions of truth and duty, but this has been brought about, not by increased cranial capacity, but by a wider range of knowledge, a higher general standard of attainment, and by greater equality among men.

It will be found that the genesis of species as advocated by Mr. Darwin, when closely investigated, breaks down at every point. Let me take by way of illustration, the relative proportion of the sexes. How is it that this proportion is observed. It is not a mere matter of accident; from the lowest to the highest forms of life the equilibrium is maintained. Here are a dozen of birds' eggs. They are of about the same size. When they are hatched the young brood look very much the same. Soon, however, they begin to develop differences. When they arrive at maturity, the males are nearly twice the size of the females; they are clad in the most brilliant plumage, while the females are possessed of a very sober and plain attire. Mr. Darwin attempts to account for this difference by saying that the more brilliant female birds have been killed off by birds and beasts of prey; and in this way he accounts for the deference between the plumage of the males and the females. With all deference to Mr. Darwin, I must say that this is a most absurd explanation. No one who will reflect for a moment, can fail to see, that if the more brilliant plumaged female birds were destroyed, and only the sober-colored survived, this would produce a deterioration in the color of the offspring generally; the one sex would not be more affected by it than the other. The effect of such an event would be to diminish, generally, the brilliancy of the plumage of the whole species. The female birds, during the

period of incubation, except in the case of birds of prey, are more exposed to danger than their mates. In the case of birds of prey, the female is often larger and stronger than the male, and the plumage is not less brilliant; but in the case of other birds, the plain colors of the females, which often correspond to their surroundings, are better adapted to protect them against discovery by their enemies. What is this but coadaptation by the Creator to surrounding environments, to prevent the extermination of the species.

We observe also in the animal kingdom an adaptation of the species to the condition of existence. The web-foot and the feathers of the water fowl, the structure of the legs of perching birds, the spike feathers in the tail of the Chimney Swallow, the barbed tongue of the Wood-pecker, with which it pierces the larva of the borer; the Cross-bill which opens with its beak the cones of the fir trees, are familiar instances. The foot of the Reindeer, the stomach of the Camel, the white fur of the Hare, Ermine, and Weasel during the winter season, are also further instances. The Tiger that lives in the jungle, and among the reeds, is of a tan color, streaked with black, exactly suited to the light and shade of its home, and well calculated to conceal it from its victims; but the Leopard, which is of the same color, and lies concealed among the branches of the trees, is differently marked. It is splashed with black, so that its color is suited to the forms of light and shade where it conceals itself, and serves equally well to hide it from the view of the animals upon which it preys. The Tree-toad changes its color instantly, to suit its surroundings. The teeth of the non-poisonous serpents, which kill their food as they swallow it, are all set inclining backwards. They are the only prehensile organs which they possess, and the more their victim exerts itself to escape, the more firmly is it held.