

fearcd, he never entered theology, but devoted himself to the study and elucidation of natural phenomena with such a measure of success as rarely falls to the lot of any one man.

An account of his own labours in connection with this expedition was given by him shortly after his return to England in a work entitled a "Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries visited during the voyage of H.M.S. *Beagle* round the World," or, as it is often called, a "Naturalist's Voyage round the World." This was originally published, along with a general account of the voyage by Captain Fitzroy, and afterwards separately. In this work appear the first glimmerings of his ideas on the doctrine of evolution of species. It would be useless to attempt to give in detail the numerous observations made during this voyage as they are contained in this book. I will just refer to a few of the most interesting.

In considering the fauna of North and South America in the Existing period, and comparing it with that of the period just preceding, he arrived at the conclusion that, within a comparatively late geological period, North and South America were much more closely related in the character of their land animals than they now are; and he accounts for this by supposing the great Mexican plateau to have been recently elevated, or more probably, the land in the West Indian Archipelago to have been recently submerged. At the present time, if America be divided by a line crossing the southern part of Mexico in latitude 20°, rather than through the isthmus of Panama, because at this point the great tableland forms an obstacle to the migration of species, we shall find that only a very few species have crossed the barrier, e.g., the opossum, puma, and peccari, and these have come from the south. We have North America characterized by

many peculiar Rodents, and by the ox, sheep, goat, and antelope, genera belonging to the hollow-horned ruminants, a group of which South America does not possess a single species; while in South America we have numerous Rodents quite different from those of North America, a family of monkeys, several genera of Edentata (sloths, ect.), the llama, tapir, peccari, and opossums. Within a period however, when most of the existing shells were living, North America possessed the mastodon, elephant, horse, and three large Edentates, viz., *Megatherium*, *Megalonyx*, and *Myiodon*, besides hollow-horned ruminants; and within the same period South America had a mastodon, horse, the same three Edentates (as well as others), a hollow-horned ruminant, and possibly an elephant. The conclusions from these facts I give in his own words. "When America, and especially North America, possessed its elephants, mastodons, horses, and hollow-horned ruminants, it was much more closely related in its zoological characters to the temperate parts of Europe and Asia than it now is. As the remains of these genera are found on both sides of Behring's Straits and on the plains of Siberia, we are led to look to the north-western side of North America as the former point of communication between the Old and so-called New World. And as so many species, both living and extinct, of these same genera inhabit and have inhabited the Old World, it seems most probable that the North American elephants, mastodons, horses, and hollow-horned ruminants migrated, on land since submerged near Behring's Straits, from Siberia into North America, and thence, on land since submerged, in the West Indies, into South America, where for a time they mingled with the forms characteristic of that southern continent, and have since become extinct."

While travelling along the Rio Pa-