

CONNECTING LINKS.

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BY H. B. SMALL.

The term "Connecting Links," might perhaps, with more propriety, be expressed under the wider term development, or the state of progression from one phase or class to another.

As an example of this, take the infant and the man. There is little in common between these two stages, save form and existence. But trace the various intermediate stages to see the links of development. The first movements of an infant are automatic and directed solely to the supply of its physical wants. New sensations are constantly excited by surrounding objects, which call into exercise all the dormant powers of mind: notions are acquired of the character and position of external objects. An attachment to persons and places begins to manifest itself. As the child advances in age the power of observation is strengthened, the perceptions become more distinct, the powers of reflection are called out which prompt him to reason upon the causes of what he observes, and his growing intelligence enables him to direct his actions to the attainment of objects he desires.

Then comes a development of moral feeling, and the *intuitive perceptions* of the lower stage of infancy become, through the connecting links recorded, the *acquired perceptions* of the man.

"Man," says Humboldt, "ever connects on from what lies at hand." Progress, degradation, survival, revival and modification, are all modes of the connection that binds together the complex network of civilization. A glance into the trivial details of daily life shows how we are but transmitters and modifiers of the result of long past ages. In the history of firearms, the clumsy wheel-lock, in which a notched steel wheel was turned by a handle against the flint till a spark caught the priming, led to the invention of the flint lock; that in time passed by an obvious modification into the percussion lock, the gun itself now changing again from muzzle-loading to breech-