

a conception of the infinite variety and of the inexhaustible marvels of Nature. It exhibits all the closeness and accuracy of observation which have ever distinguished the author, and is marked at the same time by the lucidity and simplicity of style which have contributed so largely to give currency to his speculations. His experience during the five years of that memorable voyage would seem to have contributed in more ways than one to the development of his scientific thought. It gave him, in the first place, a largeness of view which has checked any tendency to specialism, and which has taught him to discern the organic unity of Nature, and to realize the mutual co-operation of her innumerable forces in every part of her manifold productions. Those five years enabled Mr. Darwin to start upon his special researches with a wide survey, and a living personal knowledge, of the whole sphere of natural history and geology; and his work ever since has in a great measure consisted in illustrating the incessant action and reaction of all the realms of Nature. His eye has ever been looking for unity and continuity of life instead of being content to dwell on some distinct and separate field. Doubtless in this respect, as in others, he represents one of the most characteristic features of modern scientific thought. Under various forms, such as the conservation of force, or the convertibility of one kind of energy into another, as of heat into motion, the attention of men has been more and more directed to the organic unity of Nature; and the theory of Evolution itself is but a too sweeping and hasty generalization of this conception. Nothing is more curious than to observe, throughout the history of thought, how universal is the instinct of men to seize upon some large principle, and to insist, as it were, on its dominating the whole sphere of life. It is often a characteristic of even the most powerful inductive minds to leap to some such general truth, and to establish it as a sort of major premiss, which they then apply to all their minor premisses with the unconscious instinct of purely deductive reasoners. A tendency of this nature has in great measure animated Mr.