

field, and author of several well known scientific works. His father was Dr. Robert W. Darwin, F.R.S., also an eminent physician, remarkable for his quickness of perception and benevolent inclinations, qualities which were transmitted in greater degree to his son. His mother was a daughter of Josiah Wedgwood, a name well known in connection with the English pottery manufacture. Of his early boyhood very little is known. His education was begun at the Grammar School in Shrewsbury, under the direction of Dr. Butler, afterwards Bishop of Lichfield. In 1825, he was sent to Edinburgh, as it was his father's intention that he should study medicine. He remained there two years under the tuition of Prof. Jameson, but, as he did not profit much by his instructions, and was beginning to dislike the idea of a medical life, he was removed to Christ's College, Cambridge, with the view of his entering the Church. While here he came under the notice of the Rev. Prof. Henslow, who at this time occupied the chair of Botany. Between the two sprang up a life-long friendship and attachment, which was productive to both of much pleasure and benefit. To Prof. Henslow belongs the honour of first rousing in the mind of young Darwin an enthusiastic love for the study of natural science. It was in the field excursions of Henslow's class that he first developed a taste for natural history, and before long he became a most zealous and successful collector, especially in entomology. His life at Cambridge, was a very happy one, much of his time being spent in the company of this amiable man, of whom he says, "I never once saw his temper even ruffled." He took the degree of B.A. in 1831, and that of M.A. in 1837, and his own University forty years afterwards, conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D. The University of Leyden also gave him

the honorary degree of M.D., in 1875. Besides these titles he possessed many others indicative of the honours conferred upon him from time to time by various British and foreign scientific societies.

During his last session at Cambridge, when the class was out on one of its usual excursions, Professor Henslow informed him that he had been asked to recommend to the Admiralty some young naturalist to accompany Captain Fitzroy, of H.M.S. *Beagle*, on a surveying expedition to the Southern Seas. This was the second scientific voyage of the *Beagle*, and Captain Fitzroy had expressed a wish to have a naturalist on board, and offered to give up part of his own accommodation if his request were acceded to. Accordingly application was made through Professor Peacock to Professor Henslow to recommend some one, and as Darwin thought this would give him the very best opportunity of studying the natural history of different countries, he decided to volunteer his services, which were accepted by the Lords of the Admiralty. A desire to travel had been awakened in him by reading Humboldt's "Personal Narrative," but his father was rather averse to the idea, as he was afraid it might alter his plans for entering the Church. However he was prevailed upon to give his assent, and, shortly after graduating, Darwin set sail with the expedition on the 27th of December, 1831. He served without salary, paying also part of his expenses, on consideration that all his collections should be at his own disposal. The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, to make a survey of Chili, Peru, and some of the islands in the Southern Pacific, and to carry a chain of chronometrical measurements round the world. It was this voyage which settled the whole course of his subsequent life. As his father