

THE RIGHT HON. T. H. HUXLEY, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.

Thomas Henry Huxley was in many respects the most prominent English naturalist of our time. His early training was that of a medical man, but his first serious employment was in the scientific study of the pelagic animals of the Southern Ocean, when assistant-surgeon of H. M. S. *Rattlesnake* in her surveying expedition in the years 1846-50. This work he did so ably as at once to establish a high scientific reputation, though the government, on his return, declined to publish the results. Huxley was not officially naturalist to the expedition, and was at the time unknown to fame. During his absence he had sent several communications to the Linnean Society, but, as he says, "with the same result as Noah when he sent the raven out of the ark." At length, in 1849, he sent a paper to the Royal Society which was accepted and printed; but this was only at the end of the voyage. He was, however, in 1854, appointed, on recommendation of Sir H. De la Beche, naturalist to the Geological Survey, and Professor of Palæontology in the Royal School of Mines, and thenceforth held with much ability many and varied scientific and educational positions. Active and versatile in thought, and gifted with remarkable powers of expression and illustration as a writer, he was now a biologist, now a geologist or an educationist, or a social reformer, a philosopher, or a theologian or anti-theologian, as the case might be. He was the prominent and successful advocate of the Darwinian evolution before the court of public opinion, and gave to that revival of an old philosophy a vitality and an interest into which it could never have been galvanized by Darwin or Spencer or Wallace or Hæckel.

In all his various *roles* he was clever, incisive, subtle, intensely interesting, and full of unexpected and startling trains of thought and of happy analogies. Even those