

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN.

This renowned naturalist, whose theory respecting the origin of man has been the occasion of so much animated controversy, died on Thursday, April 20, at his residence Down House, near Orpington, England. He was the son of Robert Waring Darwin, and was born at Shrewsbury on February 12, 1809. Mr. Darwin was educated first at Shrewsbury School under Dr. Butler, afterward Bishop of Lichfield; he went to the University of Edinburgh in 1825, remained there two years, and was next entered at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1831. His hereditary aptitude for the study of natural science must have been early perceived by his instructors. The Rev. Mr. Henslow, Professor of Botany at Cambridge, recommended him, therefore, to Captain Fitzroy and the Lords of the Admiralty in 1831, when a naturalist was to be chosen to accompany the second surveying expedition of H.M.S. *Beagle* in the Southern seas.

The first expedition, that of the *Adventure* and *Beagle*, 1826 to 1830, had explored the coasts of Patagonia; the *Beagle*, which sailed again December 27, 1831, and returned to England October 22, 1836, made a scientific circumnavigation of the globe. Its main object was, by a continuous series of chronometrical measurements, to procure a complete chain of meridian distances; there were also important magnetic observations; but the zoology, botany, and geology of the different countries visited were examined by Mr. Darwin. He served without salary, and partly paid his own expenses, on condition that he should have the entire disposal of his collections.

Mr. Darwin discovered in South America three new genera of extinct animals. The President of the Geological Society declared that his voyage was one of the most important events for that science that had occurred for many years. To the general reader few books of travel can be more attractive than Mr. Darwin's *Journal* of this expedition, which he first published in 1839, and which has since gone through many editions. A delightful book for young readers has been compiled from his *Journal*, and published, with many illustrations, by Harper & Brothers.

Since the voyage of the *Beagle*, we believe, Mr. Darwin has not personally engaged in any



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distant explorations. He has resided during many years past in Kent, having married his cousin, Miss Emma Wedgwood, by whom he has a large family. The honors of several British and foreign scientific societies have been conferred upon him—the Royal medal and Copley medal by the Royal Society—and he has been created, by the King of Prussia, Knight of the Order of Merit. He has frequently contributed to the transactions of the Geological, Zoological, the Linnæan, and other botanical societies, and his treatise on the Cirripedia, published by the Ray Society, is one of his works held in much esteem. Botanists have appreciated his observations of the habits of climbing plants, and his very interesting book, published in 1862, upon the methods by which the fertilization of orchids is effected through the agency of certain insects. Mr. Darwin's reputation is thus independent of the philosophical theory which he propounds in his essay "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection." That bold and ingenious essay, which first appeared in 1859, has been printed by tens of thousands of copies, and translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, and other European languages.

This is not the place to enter upon the discussion of a subject which has excited the most bitter controversy in scientific circles; but we must state that the great objection to the Darwinian theory is the want of that direct evidence of facts in its support which would surely be forthcoming if it were true. Geology bears witness to its fossils, of the existence during thousands of past centuries of many species now extinct; but we do not learn from the geologists that they have detected any one species in the act of transforming itself into any other. Within the range even of human observation of some living structures, it might have been expected that, seeing the rapidity of their generations succeeding one another, short-lived as they are, we should find some recorded instances of such mutations; and the animals which old Egypt worshipped, and those of which we read in old Egypt's fables were such as we now meet. Allowing, however, the lapse of hundreds of millions of years, antecedent to all geological dates, for the change from the simplest to the most complete living form, it is scarcely credible that the modification of a vegetating structure has produced in animals such an organ as the eye, much less the brain.



THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FOOTBALL SEASON—A MAUL IN GOAL.