

In regard to all these researches, we meet at present a temporary limit to our perceptions and understanding, but this does not prevent us from enjoying the results of the studies which we have carried to success within the present field of acquired knowledge.

The question of the descent of man belongs to one of the fields which are thoroughly conquered by science, and neither complaints nor doubts can alter this fact. There is nothing more to do but to meet these things bravely. Human beings ever remain what they are. No one can rob them of their nature. All our ideals likewise remain undisturbed. Whoever feels within himself the force of a deep spiritual life, the living breath of nature will not be wrecked by the fact that his ancestor did not only wear a rough and hairy animal skin as a protection for his naked shoulders, so and so many years ago, but also at a certain period previous to that wore an animal skin grown fast to his own body. Poetry did not die when it became known that it is not the sun which actually rises in the east, but the earth which revolves towards it. Genuine religious feeling is truly something very human, using these terms in their very widest and sublimest meaning, and a cold fact from the history of human evolution cannot dampen this spirit. It is a triumph of modern human powers that we can resurrect the past from the tombs of millions of years. That is what makes those ancient pictures so inspiring. But we should not be worthy of this triumph if we did not have the strength to dominate the spirits of the past with the calmness of a master who can look at them serenely and say: "You are of the past and the struggles of the past belong to you; but I am, and above me are my stars."