

not only as a patient, earnest, and successful observer of nature, but also as a most skilful reasoner, and the most important generalizer in the whole history of biological science. His claim to everlasting memory rests upon the fact that he established, or rendered sufficiently probable, the immortal principle of Evolution, by suggesting as its reasonable cause the theory of Natural Selection.

The idea of evolution had occurred to other minds before Darwin's time, but it had never recommended itself to the judgment of science, because no adequate cause for any of the effects ascribed to it had been given, before he propounded his theory of natural selection. Whether this cause is the chief, or only a subordinate one, scientific men are by no means agreed; but once enunciated, it gave some probability to the theory of descent, and so wrought a complete revolution in almost every branch of science. Few men have been so wilfully, maliciously, and persistently misrepresented in all quarters, and especially by the pulpit and the press. Darwinism has been caricatured, burlesqued, and satirized by men of science, theologians, and humourists. Many of you doubtless can remember the antagonism and unreasonable opposition offered on all sides at the mention of his theories; but we have lived to see a great change. There is now scarcely a naturalist of any note, who does not accept the doctrine of descent in some form or other; sober-minded divines have ceased to regard his views as necessarily opposed to our conceptions of the omnipotence and glory of the Creator, or even to the generally received truths of revelation; and the speculations as to how apes lost their tails and turned into men no longer afford amusement to any but weak-minded enthusiasts and silly schoolboys. If not long ago, the notorious relationship with monkeys,

was regarded as the sum and substance of the doctrine of descent, now we only hear such superficial condemnatory opinions from the most grossly ignorant. The old jest of inquiring why we do not see some ambitious gorilla, or high-toned chimpanzee, transforming himself into a man has now lost most of its force.

In contemplating Darwin's career it is difficult to say whether we should most admire his wonderful intellect or the beauty of his character. We can truly say of him, as he himself said of his friend and teacher, Prof. Henslow of Cambridge, "Reflecting over his character with gratitude and reverence, his moral attributes rise, as they should do in the highest characters, in pre-eminence over his intellect." Only those who were intimate with him could understand and appreciate the grand simplicity and sublime beauty of his character, and to others any language adequate to portray this must seem extravagant. The main features of his disposition seem to have been an all-absorbing love of truth, a total disregard of self, a keen interest in the pleasures of others, large benevolence, kindness, and generosity of heart, and permeating all a deep thoughtful wisdom, the whole forming a character eminently worthy of our love and reverence. All his thoughts and actions were characterized by intense honesty. No man more fully realized his own weakness; and therein lay his strength. He would accept suggestions and criticisms from anyone, even the most humble; and he spared neither time nor pains in collecting from every source all the possible information upon every subject which engaged his attention.

Charles Robert Darwin was born at Shrewsbury, England, on the 12th of February, 1809. His grandfather was the celebrated Dr. Erasmus Darwin, F.R.S., a physician of Lich-