

With what success he did so, may be judged by the fact that had he never accomplished anything else he has left foundations enough to build for himself a substantial fame in that branch alone that would not be dimmed in comparison with the works of Newton, Faraday, or Darwin.

His book on the "Medusæ," worked out amid all the hardships and inconveniences of ship life, away from references of any kind, shows the efforts of a clear, decisive intellect, striving to see through the gloom of the unknown and holding fast to facts undeniably established. In subsequent memoirs on the Molluscs, Tunicates, Arthropods and Vertebrates he followed the same line of inquiry. However, it is not as a morphologist that he is popularly known, nor as a physiologist, in which he held a professoriate chair for years and in which subject he gained great distinction, but he is known as a hard-fighting, vigorous opponent in debate and an able exponent of Darwinism. It was left to three men to decide the fate of the "Origin of Species." These were Lyall, Hooker, and Huxley. Darwin said if he could but get these three persuaded to his thinking he cared not for the rest of the world. Writing to Darwin, Huxley says:—

"As for your doctrine, I am prepared to go to the stake, if requisite, in support of chapter ix. and most parts of chapters x., xi. and xii."

Anticipating the opposition the "Origin of Species" would arouse, he concludes: "I am sharpening my claws and beak in readiness." This is the key-note to much of Huxley's life. A keen debater and logical reasoner, readily foreseeing the future effects of present causes, he would have had few peers, if any, in the House of Commons had he turned to politics. But it was not from any vain glory that Huxley donned the armour of a warrior on Darwin's behalf. Little by little he relinquished his narrower studies and earlier joys in working out special problems, in order to give himself up to the larger pursuits of life.

It was these wider issues at stake which forced him to fight so gallantly for the sake of scientific truth. He hated dogmatism and bigotry, especially theological, and was most bitter when denouncing some unworthy idol of his adversaries. In his younger days he had realized the selfish joy of successful and