

other. They cannot be ranked in single file, it is true, but the subordinate groups seem to be clustered round points, and these round other points, and so on.

There are a great many other things in connection with this theory which I should like to have noticed, did time permit, such as the difficulties surrounding it, though, it would seem, not fatal to it, the evolution of instinct, the facts of sterility and hybridism, the application of the theory to man, and its relations to Christianity. On this last head, I will just say, that in my opinion the doctrine of Descent and the facts in connection therewith harmonize completely with the teachings of faith, and the belief in a personal, omniscient God, acting through these natural laws instituted by His will and sustained by His providence. As far as the application of the theory to man goes, I believe that his physical organization has been evolved by the ordinary operation of natural laws, which are but expressions of the Creator's will; while his soul, or higher nature, an entirely different existence from his body, was created, not through the operation of secondary pre-existing means, but by the direct action of the Almighty. And this view Scripture plainly seems to set forth, when it says: "God made man from the dust of the earth (i.e. his body) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (i. e. his soul). To those who ignorantly ask for the missing links between monkeys and man, I have to say, that Darwin never told us that man was descended from any of the apes, but only that man and the anthropomorphous apes are descended from a common extinct progenitor, along diverging lines; and that it is the height of absurdity to suppose that an evolutionist ought to be able to show how a gorilla transformed himself into a man, any more than he ought to be able to prove to

the satisfaction of the most incredulous, that by stripping the hair of a squirrel's tail he could change it into a rat!

Whether we accept Darwin's theory of Natural Selection or not does not alter the fact of Evolution, for it is quite possible for the theory of Natural Selection to be entirely false, and the doctrine of Descent still true. Mr. Darwin's greatest achievement perhaps in this work is, that he has finally established the fact of Evolution. That he has finally shown that Natural Selection is the cause of Evolution, I am not prepared to say. The law which impels the variation of species in known directions may be Natural Selection, or it may be an inherent principle of development working according to natural laws yet unknown, or perhaps both of these combined; but I believe all organic forms have been evolved by ordinary natural laws expressive of the Divine will, and acting "in obedience to a creative fiat originally imposed on the primeval Cosmos, 'in the beginning,' by its Creator, its Upholder, and its Lord."

In the closing words of the "Origin of Species," "There is a grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved."

I have dwelt at such length on the "Origin of Species" that I have very little space left for glancing at Mr. Darwin's subsequent works. Some of them I can only just name. In 1862 appeared a work on the "Fertilization of Orchids." In 1867 he published a volume on the "Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication," which he intended as the