

charms had turned the equator to the pole ; and, satisfied, she yielded. Then he, descending from his height, led her to their nuptial bower, a neighbouring cave, nothing loath, but yet with coy, reluctant amorous delay.*



The fruit of these nuptials appeared in due time. As might have been expected, it was a mingling of the traits of the two parents—a gorilla with a tail, which appendage had now been added to one of our race for the first time by the operation of the great principle of sexual selection. At first the tail was looked upon with suspicion, if not aversion. The most respectable matrons of our race scoffed, and sniffed, and turned up their noses at the little stranger. A gorilla with a

* The learned lecturer might here have cited, in support of the truthfulness of this and one or two other passages, Mr. Darwin's much more impressive, as well as multitudinous, description of what he calls "the act of courtship," in chapters xiii. and xviii., *passim*, of "The Descent of Man and Selection in relation to Sex."