

nificance of his work. But let him persevere, and those same persons will some day come to respect what he is doing, and what will be for better, he will himself have the satisfaction of feeling that he has added a little to the world's knowledge.

DARWIN'S RELIGIOUS VIEWS.

From Boston Journal of Chemistry.

DURING the meeting of German scientists and physicians, held last year in Eisenach, Professor Ernst Haeckel lectured on the natural religion of Darwin, Goethe, and Lamack. In the course of this lecture he made the following remarks :—

That Darwin also held to the same natural religion as Goethe, and that he was no adherent of any special church confession, is apparent to any one reading carefully his works. But as some of his countrypeople have, since his death, asserted the contrary, and as some clergymen have praised Darwin as an adherent of a special confession of the English church, I am able to introduce here an exceedingly valuable but hitherto unknown document, which will remove every doubt that might possibly exist.

A young German student, whose faith in the Christian religion had been shaken by the perusal of Darwin's work, and who had entered the intermediate stage of doubt, wrote to Darwin, for the purpose of getting the advice of this eminent natural philosopher. At first, one of the relatives of Darwin answered by excusing the latter's ill-health, great age, and want of time, which prevented him from answering the questions put to him; but the German student was not satisfied, and so he once more wrote to Darwin, begging him to help him in his dilemma. He then received the following letter, written and signed by Darwin himself :—

“DOWN, June 5, 1879.

Dear Sir—I am very busy, an old man, and in bad health, and I cannot gain the time to perfectly answer your questions, supposing that they may be so answered. Science has nothing to do with CHRIST, excepting in so far as the habit of scientific exploration makes a man cautious in recognizing proofs. As far as concerns myself, I do not believe that there

has ever taken place any revelation. But regarding a future life, everybody has to decide for himself between contradicting uncertain probabilities.

“Wishing you future welfare, I remain,
dear sir,

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES DARWIN.

A VOLCANO.

A English lady—Mrs. Brassey—who has recently visited Hawaii, thus describes Kilauea, the largest volcano in the world : “We were standing on the extreme edge of a precipice, overhanging a lake of molten fire a hundred feet below us, and nearly a mile across. Dashing against the cliffs on the opposite side, with a noise like the roar of a stormy ocean, waves of blood-red fiery, liquid lava hurled their billows upon an iron-bound head-land, and then rushed up the face of the cliffs to toss their gory spray high in the air. The restless, heaving lake boiled and bubbled, never remaining the same for two minutes together. . . There was an island on one side of the lake, which the fiery waves seemed to attack unceasingly with relentless fury, as if bent on hurling it from its base. On the other side was a large cavern, into which the burning mass rushed with a loud roar, breaking down in its impetuous headlong career the gigantic stalactites that overhung the mouth of the cave, and flinging up the liquid material for the formation of new ones. It was all terribly grand, magnificently sublime; but no words could adequately describe such a scene.”

A naturalist may study the habits of the mosquito, out of books for years, but it is only by long and careful practice that he can learn to hit one in the dark without mashing his own nose.