

DARWIN-WALLACE CELEBRATION



REPORTING the proceedings at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the famous joint communication by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace, "On the tendency of species to form varieties, and on the natural means of selection," the London Times says:

The President, in welcoming the delegates and guests, said that they were met to celebrate what was without doubt the greatest event in the history of the Linnean Society since its foundation. Nor was it easy to conceive the possibility in the future of any second revolution of biological thought so momentous as that which was started 50 years ago by the reading of the joint papers of Mr. Darwin and Dr. Wallace, communicated to the society by Sir Charles Lyell and Sir Joseph Hooker. In Darwin's contribution, the now classic term, "natural selection" was used for the first time. In Dr. Wallace's paper, the same idea was expressed with equal clearness. With both authors the key to evolution was at the same time the key to adaptation, and the great characteristic by which living things were distinguished. Darwin and Wallace not only freed us from the dogma of special creation—a dogma which we now found it difficult to conceive of as once seriously held—but they afforded a natural explanation of the marvelous indications of design which had been the great strength of the old doctrine; and themselves, with their disciples, added tenfold to the evidence of adaptation. Any new development of the doctrine of evolution must be prepared to face fairly and squarely the facts of adaptation. He was proud to welcome on behalf of the Linnean Society the illustrious gathering which had assembled to commemorate an event so unpretentious in its circumstances, so profound in its significance. The presence of Dr. Wallace, one of the two creators of the theory, and of Sir Joseph Hooker, who brought it into the world, was in itself enough to render the meeting

memorable. While regretting the absence of Professor Weissmann and Professor Haeckel, those valiant champions of evolution, he rejoiced to welcome Professor Strasburger, who represented in the present day the great school of Hofmeister, who helped to make straight the way for "The Origin of Species."

The ceremony of presenting the special Darwin-Wallace medals was then entered upon.

In making the presentation first to Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the President said that Dr. Wallace's brilliant work both in natural history and geography had often received distinguished recognition. In asking him to accept the first Darwin-Wallace medal, the Linnean Society was really offering him his own. There was nothing in the history of science more delightful or more noble than the story of the relations between Darwin and Wallace—the story of a generous rivalry in which each discoverer strove to exalt the claims of the other. It was a remarkable and momentous coincidence that both should have independently arrived at the idea of natural selection after the reading of Malthus' book; and it was a most happy inspiration that Dr. Wallace should have selected Darwin as the naturalist to whom his discovery should be communicated. Like Darwin, Dr. Wallace was, above all, a naturalist, a student and lover of living animals and plants. It was to such men—these who had learnt the ways of nature in the open—that the doctrine of natural selection especially appealed, and therein lay its great and lasting strength. (Cheers.)

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, who was very cordially received on rising to respond, said that since the death of Darwin in 1882 he had found himself in the somewhat unusual position of receiving credit and praise from popular writers under a complete misapprehension of what his share in Darwin's work really amounted to. It had been stated not infrequently in the press that Darwin and he discovered natural selection simultaneously, while a more daring

few had declared that he was the first to make the discovery, and that he gave way to Darwin. To avoid further errors it would be well to give the actual facts. The one fact that connected him with Darwin was that the idea of "natural selection" or "survival of the fittest," together with its far-reaching consequences, occurred to them both independently. "But what was often forgotten was that the idea occurred to Darwin in October, 1838, nearly 20 years earlier than to himself, and that during the whole of that 20 years Darwin had been laboriously collecting evidence and carrying out ingenious experiments and original observations. As far back as 1844, when he (Dr. Wallace) had hardly thought of any serious study of nature, Darwin had written an outline of his views which he communicated to his friends, Lyell and Hooker. The former strongly urged him to publish his theory as soon as possible lest he should be forestalled; but Darwin always refused till he had got together the whole of the materials for his intended great work. Then at last Lyell's prediction was fulfilled, and without any apparent warning his (Dr. Wallace's) letter reached Darwin like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky. How different from this long study and preparation, this philosophic caution, this determination not to make known his fruitful conception till he could back it up by overwhelming proofs, was his own conduct. The idea came to him, as it came to Darwin, in a sudden flash of insight. It was thought out in a few hours, and was written down with such a sketch of its various applications and development as occurred to the mind at the moment. Then it was copied out to letter paper and sent on to Darwin, all in one week. He was the young man in a hurry; Darwin was the painstaking and patient student. Such being the facts, he should have had no cause of complaint if the respective shares of Darwin and himself had henceforth been estimated as rightly proportional to the time that each had bestowed upon their theory when it was first given to the

world—that was to say, as 20 years was to one week. If Darwin had listened to his friends and had published his theory after ten years, 15 years, or even 18 years' elaboration of it, he would at once have been recognized, and should ever be recognized, as the sole and undisputed discoverer and patient investigator of the great law of "natural selection" in all its far-reaching consequences. It was a singular piece of good luck that gave him any share whatever in the discovery. During the first half of the 19th century many great biological thinkers and workers had been pondering over the problem, and had even suggested ingenious, but inadequate solutions. Why did so many of the greatest intellects fail while Darwin and he hit upon the solution? A curious series of correspondences both in mind and in environment led Darwin and himself, alone among their contemporaries, to reach identically the same theory. First and most important in early life, both Darwin and he became ardent beetle hunters. There was no other group of organisms that so impressed the collector by the almost infinite number of its specific forms and their innumerable adaptations to diverse environments. Again, both Darwin and he had "the mere passion of collecting," an intense interest in the mere variety of living things. It was this superficial and almost childlike interest in the outward forms of living things which happened to be the only one that could have led them to a solution of the problem of species. It was the constant search for and detection of often unexpected differences between very similar creatures that gave such an intellectual charm and fascination to mere collecting, and when, as with Darwin and himself, the collectors were of a speculative turn of mind, they were constantly led to think on the why and the how of this overwhelming and at first sight purposeless wealth of specific forms among the very humblest forms of life. Then a little later both Darwin and he became travelers and observers in some of the richest and most inter-

esting portions of the earth, and thus had forced upon their attention all the strange phenomena of local and geographical distribution. Thenceforward the mystery of how species came into existence began in Darwin's phrase "to haunt" them. Finally, both Darwin and he, at the critical moment when their minds were freshly stored with a considerable body of personal observation and reflection bearing on the problem to be solved, had their attention directed to the system of "positive checks" as expounded by Malthus in his "Principles of Population." The effect of this was analogous to that of friction on the specially prepared match, producing that flash of insight which led them immediately to the simple but universal law of the "survival of the fittest" as the long-sought effective cause of the continuous modification and adaptation of living things. He attached much importance to the large amount of solitude which he and Darwin enjoyed during their travels and which gave them ample time for reflection. This view of the combination of certain mental faculties and external conditions that led Darwin and himself to an identical conception also served to explain why none of their precursors or contemporaries hit upon what was really so very simple a solution of the great problem. He accepted the crowning honor conferred upon him that day as a too liberal recognition of the moderate amount of time and work he had given to explain and elucidate the theory, to point out some novel applications of it, and to extend those applications even in directions which somewhat diverged from those accepted by this honored friend and teacher—Charles Darwin. (Loud cheers.)

Bacon—There's one thing I can't understand.

Egbert—Tell it to me.

Bacon—When a couple get married, it is said they become one. But, again they say it takes two to make a quarrel.

Anti-Opium Movement

THE Shanghai correspondent of the London Times writes, as follows, under date of Pekin, May 27:

Sir: Referring to Mr. Taylor's letter in The Times of April, under the heading of the "Anti Opium Movement in China," in which he criticizes an article of mine on the same subject, published in The Times of April 4, I trust you will permit me to draw your attention to certain errors in his statement, errors which, if uncorrected, are calculated further to mislead the British public on a subject wherein sound judgment is being previously sacrificed to sentiment.

While applauding "the genuineness of the determination of China's Government to stamp out this great curse," he observes that the Empire is "a loose federation of semi-independent provincial garrisons," implying, I presume, that from such a body-politic too much must not be expected; and finally, he says that "the results up to now are simply marvellous." In one sense I concur in this conclusion; the results of the Chinese government's policy are simply marvellous in England and other countries where ill-balanced sentiment often outweighs the teachings of history and political science; but, when he quotes the best observers on the spot, such as Sir John Jordan, Sir Robert Hart, and the Pekin correspondent of the Times as sharing his opinion as to marvellous results in China, I can only say that the wish must have been father to the statement, for not one of the three gentlemen to whom he refers holds, or has held, this opinion. They are, as we all are, entirely sympathetic, assured also of the genuine national impulse at the back of the movement, and the strength of public opinion; but they suspend judgment, all but enthusiasts must do, in deciding as to the genuineness and effect of the government's attitude and actions.

On the other side of the question, the side which the curiously optimistic attitude of modern humanitarianism declines to consider, let me give the actual words of an English missionary doctor, an observer far more "on the spot" than any gatherer of facts and opinions in Pekin. Dr. Main, of the Church Missionary Hospital at Haychow says:

"For more than a quarter of a century we have made consistent protests against the habit, and have held out a helping hand to those who were anxious to be cured of the vice. A few weeks before the closing of the dens, we had more applicants for admission to the refuge than we could receive. At one time we had as many as 55. Since the closing of the dens, anti-opium pills, containing morphia and opium in some form, have been freely distributed by the gentry, and shops for the sale of these anti-opium pills are opened everywhere and doing a roaring trade. Our refuge has been empty for months, and in fact we have now no use for it.

"Some have been cured, but most of those who frequent the opium dens have simply replaced the pipe by morphine pills, and the last state is worse than the first. The government has yet a big job before it, and the end in view may be best attained through the recent agreement between England and China, which provides for a parallel reduction of the growth of

opium in China and the importation of the drug from India, and the strict prohibition of morphia into the country. The former obligation is a most important one, and will have to be very carefully watched, and unless the officials exert themselves in a very different way in the future from what they have done in the past, we 'have our doots' as to the results being satisfactory. There is no love lost between officials and the people; the chief aim of most officials is to grind like a soulless machine as much money as they can, and that as quickly as possible out of the people. The greed of gain is the rock on which many of them split. There are a few exceptions to this rule, and we meet occasionally officials who really care for the interests of the people, and who find in doing so they are advancing the interests of their country."

In conclusion, let me refer to the final paragraphs of Mr. Taylor's letter, which contain a remarkable misstatement of my criticism of Japan's action in the matter of this opium question. If he will read my article again he will see that I did not refer to the Japanese government's "indifference in Korea" nor to her action in any territory under her own protection or control. What I did say, and maintain, is that if England is supporting the Chinese government in abolishing opium smoking in Chinese territory, its attitude "would gain in force and effect if supported by our Japanese allies." I pointed out that in Manchuria, which is Chinese territory, the Japanese authorities are openly encouraging the opium traffic. Unjustifiably substituting "Korea" for Manchuria, Mr. Taylor arrives at the conclusion that we should not criticize Japan's action because of the policy adopted by British colonies in the East—e.g. Hongkong and the Straits Settlements—in dealing with the opium question. If this argument means anything, it means that he condones Japan's arbitrary disregard of the opium edict in China, because certain British colonies have decided to apply experience and common sense, rather than impetuous sentimentality, to this important question. Apart from the financial results of the abolition of licensed opium-smoking, which must involve a complete readjustment of taxation, etc., in these colonies, and, therefore, demands a reasonable period of transition, it is evident to the trained experience and intelligence of administrators on the spot that, until the Chinese government have given satisfactory proof of their honest intention to suppress (gradually) the cultivation of opium, any drastic regulations rendering its consumption illegal would not only be futile, but would result (as in many native cities of China at this moment) in abuses (such as opium-smoking in brothels, etc.) which are reduced to a minimum under the licensing system.

But you can no more abolish opium-smoking by Imperial edict or pious opinions in China than you can suppress the use of alcoholic liquor by Act of Parliament in England. Only public opinion can achieve these results, the active conscience of a determined majority. And pending evidence, genuine evidence, of the effect of such a force of public opinion, I shall put a stop to the cultivation of the poppy (and thus abolish opium) administrators responsible for the prosperity and good order of

British colonies are, in my opinion, acting only with a proper sense of their responsibility and duty when, following the example of the government of India, they agree to the gradual abolition of the opium traffic, pari passu with the decrease in production of the Chinese drug.

CHANGES IN HAT CUSTOMS.

"An interesting little plan to create a 'boom' in the disappearing silk hat was concocted last week by a number of manufacturers and retailers, but in consequence of the premature revelation of the scheme it is now doubtful whether it will achieve the desired results," says the Observer.

"It had been arranged that on a certain fine day in the near future, some thousands of the employees of hatmakers, and large hatters' shops of the Metropolis, should don each a shining, immaculate, top hat, and concentrate, without apparent collusion, at the Franco-British exhibition. The presence there of ten or twenty thousand men, all wearing silk hats, would, of course, have attracted some attention, with the probable result of a 'boom' in that type of headgear.

"This was the project, but, unfortunately for its success, certain discontented members of the Hatmakers' Workers' Society gave away many disquieting, and perfectly true, statements respecting the enormous decline in the vogue of the silk hat, which has resulted in many hundreds of men being almost constantly out of employment. Efforts were made to turn the idea into an unemployed demonstration, and the carefully planned exhibition project may be abandoned.

"During the last few years there has been an extraordinary decline in the wearing of the silk hat. A well known manufacturer stated yesterday that a few years ago they always counted on trade being brisk in the form of hatgear, at least until after Goodwood, and upon its revival again in October. But the growth of motoring, combined with a general and growing tendency towards more neglect attire, has rendered the silk hat an almost unnecessary luxury.

"Even Royalty," he added pathetically, "allow themselves to be seen at the most fashionable functions in felt or straw hats, and where Royalty leads, the ordinary person follows, in this case only too willingly. A few years ago employers in the city, and particularly stockbrokers, did not dream of allowing one of their clerks to come to business in any other headgear but a silk hat. Now he makes no stipulation beyond requiring his men to be smartly dressed. What is required for a revival of the silk hat—unquestionably the only smart male headgear in existence—is that heads of banks, stockbroking establishments, and other large business concerns should revert to the old custom of insisting upon their men coming to the office properly dressed.

"With regard to the effect of motoring," he added, "this is twofold. In the first place rich people who motor do so much of it that they have no time to change their clothes except in the evening, and, secondly, so many people who can afford either to dress well, or to run a motor car, but not both, choose the car and run along as regards dress on a couple of tweed suits a year. This is bad for manufacturers of silk hats, and equally bad for tailors, who are suffering with us."

Shall Dickens Have Statue

SHORT time ago it was announced in your columns that the town council of Rochester were about to set up a statue of Dickens in their gardens at the foot of Rochester Castle. This was a little premature, though the matter was all but settled. But H. F. Dickens, the novelist's son, sent down to the council an extract from his father's will, which seemed to deprecate such forms of homage. On receipt of this document the council abandoned the project.

We must have due respect for Mr. Dickens' filial regard for his father's presumed wishes. But we may doubt if the passage in question bears the prohibitive meaning put upon it. It runs:

"I conjure my friends on no account to make me the subject of any monument, memorial, or testimonial whatever. I rest my claims to the remembrance of my countrymen upon my published works, and to the remembrance of my friends upon their experience of me in addition thereto."

Now I do not mean to refine or "specially plead," but it does seem to me that this is a mere aspiration of the testator's, and that he had no wish to interfere with the desires of the public. In preceding passages, when he wished to enforce his wishes, he "emphatically directs," and again "DIRECTS," in capitals. The first passage is addressed to his circle of friends. As it was written close on forty years ago very few of those friends now survive, and in due time all will have disappeared. As for the great public, he does not appeal to them at all. He leaves them free: though he suggests that his books ought to recall him and that he does not "claim" their remembrance by the aid of proper methods. This is all very guarded—navy, very delicately put, as one who should say, "I don't wish to interfere with your action—I only express a personal feeling." Why, then, did he speak in this fashion? I really believe that what was in his mind was the image of the usual advertising committees, the contentions, the speeches, wranglings, subscriptions, etc. From these things he recoiled. They were odious to him.

Further, this is to be considered. As the interval between the death of a great personage slowly widens and is seen further and yet further away, such testamentary provisions seem to lose their force. They are contemporary, as it were. Newer generations seem to think that they are not intended for them; what affects contemporaries does not so much affect their successors.

It will be noticed that the testator mentions some three forms of such souvenirs—"monument," "memorial," and "testimonial." A statue might, no doubt, be classed under one or other of these categories. Busts, placed above recording tablets, simple tablets of marble or bronze with inscriptions, would certainly be included. "Monument," "memorial," "testimonial"—these chosen terms certainly include every form of posthumous recognition. An inscribed tablet saying that "Charles Dickens lived here" is surely a "testimonial." A dust and pedestal is a "monument"—a bust being a half statue. A tablet with a profile and inscription is a memorial. Yet these things are found abundantly all over the country! You

lately gave an account of certain Boz festivities at Broadstairs under the auspices of the Dickens Fellowship, and where were unveiled no less than three tablets to his memory. For many years these have been regularly inaugurated in ceremonial fashion under the auspices of the president of the Fellowship, Mr. H. F. Dickens, who, as trustee or guardian of "la sabre de mon pere," ought to have interposed on such occasions—"forbidden the banns." It is difficult to follow these inconsistencies.

But what of Charles Dickens's wishes? We, says the family, we are bound and may not put them aside. That feeling, again, one must respect. But have these wishes been always consulted with the same scrupulousity? I have just given one instance. It is well known that his desire was to be laid to rest in his beloved Cloisterham. A grave was even dug in the cathedral precincts. But then came the offer of Westminster Abbey, and it was filled up. This change every one must approve of.

By and by the affectionate feeling of the public, stimulated by the exertions of the Fellowship, will assuredly carry the point. I am responsible for many of these tributes—for at least four busts and pedestals. One is placed in the museum at Boulogne, occupying the place of honor, and M. Peron, the mayor, assures me that he intends to have a formal inauguration. I offered a bronze statue to the city of Rochester, to be supplied at my own cost, but my good intention was frustrated in the way I have described. It seems to me very praiseworthy and a very affectionate thing, on the part of a grateful public, that it should be thus eager to have the image of their old friend before them "in his habit as he lived." This would have particularly applied to Rochester where Boz's first book, as it was of his last. The site for a statue was an ideal one in the almost retirement of the beautiful castle garden, under the shadow of the vast pile where I had often sat with him. There was to be a seated figure half hidden by the trees, his papers on his knee, a pen in his hand, the work suspended as though he had fallen into a reverie, while round the base were to be grouped some of his characters—Mr. Pickwick, Little Nell, and others. On the sides of the broad pedestal were reliefs of the humorous Rochester scenes. This, in the tranquil garden, not, observe, in the busy, noisy street, with vulgar associations, tramcars, etc., about it, but with the trees, the flowers, the Medway below—this would have been a pleasant sight for the pilgrim.

The decision of the Rochester Council is to be lamented. Such a memorial would have been of advantage to this picturesque town. No writer ever loved a place so tenderly, every stone of it is celebrated in his writings. But of a sudden this pleasant dream is to be dispelled to the air of "Voilà le sabre, le sabre de mon pere!"—Percy Fitzgerald, in London Times.

"When a young man proposes you should always be careful to test his love," cautioned the conservative chaperon.

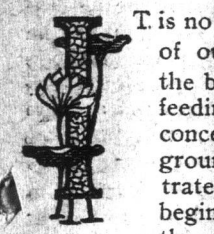
"But I go one better, auntie," twittered the pretty summer girl. "Do you see this tiny bottle?"

"Yes. Does it contain perfume?"

"No; it contains acid. I test the engagement ring."

WITH THE

BULKY



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