
Literary Notices.

There is a kind of physiognomy in the titles of books no less than in the faces of men, by which a skillful observer will know as well what to expect from the one as the other.—BUTLER.

THE DESCENT OF MAN, and Selection in Relation to Sex. By Charles Darwin, R.A., F.R.S. With illustrations. Two vols., 12mo; pp. 945; cloth. Price, \$4. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

The world is, or should be, very much obliged to Mr. Darwin for his studious investigations. He has set many men to thinking, and this is one way to supplant ignorance, superstition, and bigotry. But has Mr. Darwin established the fact as to the descent or ascent of man? Has he *proved* anything? What of the origin of man? Was he a direct creation of almighty power, or did he grow out of plant, insect, reptile, or animal? Are there still higher orders of being as much above man as man is above plant or animal? He gives his version of "Instinct and Reason," with many interesting facts; but fails to define them in accordance with phrenological science. This, however, is a matter of no moment with the author who is driving on to establish a new theory. We commend his zeal, his learning, and his sincerity. We, in common with others, question his judgment, and do not accept his inferences and conclusions. Nevertheless, we concede the propriety of this line of investigation. Obtain a fact, and then

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trace it to its origin. All facts and all true theories begin and end in God. We would trace out the course of nature in all things. Read Darwin, and accept that which he proves. Learn all we may,—and it is not wicked to learn all we can—we shall never know all. The Messrs. Appleton have published “The Descent of Man” in excellent style.
