

The Intelligencer.

DARWIN'S NEW HERESY.

The Descent of Man.

Mr. Darwin's "Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex," is in the press of the Appletons and will soon be published. It is a book which will arouse an angry controversy, but it will be read with intense interest; for, while it propounds startling theories, it also embodies the results of much curious research. Man, says Mr. Darwin, is liable to receive from the lower animals, and to communicate to them, certain diseases, as hydrophobia, variola, the glanders, &c.; and this fact, he contends, proves the close similarity of their tissues and blood, both in minute structure and composition, far more plainly than does their comparison under the best microscope, or by the aid of the best chemical analysis. Monkeys are liable to many of the same non-contagious diseases as we are; thus Rengger, who carefully observed for a long time the *Cobus Azara* in its native land, found it liable to catarrah, with the usual symptoms, and which when often recurrent led to consumption. These monkeys suffered also from apoplexy, inflammation of the bowels, and cataract in the eye. The younger ones when shedding their milk teeth often died from fever. Medicines produced the same effect on them as on us. Many kinds of monkeys have a strong taste for tea, coffee and spirituous liquors; they will also smoke tobacco with pleasure. Brehm asserts that the natives of North-eastern Africa catch the wild baboons by exposing vessels of strong beer, by which they are made drunk. He has seen some of these animals, which he kept in confinement, in this state; and he gives a laughable account of their behavior and strange grimaces. On the following morning they were very cross and dismal, they held their aching heads with both hands, and wore a most pitiful expression; when beer or wine was offered them they turned away in disgust, but relished the juice of lemons. An American monkey, an Ateles, after getting drunk on brandy, would never touch it again, and thus was wiser than many men. These trifling facts prove how similar the nerves and taste must be in monkeys and man, and how similarly the whole nervous system is affected.

Mr. Darwin continues in this vein, as follows:

"Man is infested with internal parasites, sometimes causing fatal effects, and is plagued by external parasites, all of which belong to the same genera or families with those infesting other mammals. Man is subject, like other mammals, birds, and even insects, to that mysterious law, which causes certain normal processes, such as gestation, as well as the maturation and duration of various diseases, to follow lunar periods. His wounds are repaired by the same process of healing; and the stumps left after amputation of his limbs occasionally possess, especially during an early embryonic period, some power of regeneration, as in the lowest animals.

"* * * According to a popular impression, the absence of a tail is eminently distinctive of man; but, as those apes which come nearest to man are destitute of this organ, its disappearance does not especially concern us. Nevertheless, it may be well to own that no explanation, as far as I am aware, has ever been given of the loss of the tail by certain apes and man. Its loss, however, is not surprising, for it sometimes differs remarkably in length in species of the same genera: thus in some species of *Macacus* the tail is longer than the whole body, consisting of twenty-four vertebrae; in others it consists of a scarcely visible stump, containing only three or four vertebrae. In some kinds of baboons there are twenty-five, while in the mandrill there are ten very small stunted caudal vertebrae, or, according to Cuvier, sometimes only five. This great diversity in the structure and length of the tail in animals belonging to the same genera, and following nearly the same habits of life, renders it probable that the tail is not of much importance to them; and if so, we might have expected that it would sometimes have become more or less rudimentary, in accordance with what we incessantly see with other structures. The tail almost always tapers toward the end, whether it be long or short; and this, I presume, results from the atrophy, through disuse of the terminal muscles, together with their arteries and nerves, leading to the atrophy of the terminal bones. With respect to the os coccyx, which in man and the higher apes manifestly consists of the few basal and tapering segments of an ordinary tail, I have heard it asked how could these have become completely embedded within the body; but there is no difficulty in this respect, for in many monkeys the basal segments of the true tail are thus embedded. For instance, Mr. Murie informs me that in the skeleton of a not full-grown *Macacus inornatus*, he counted nine or ten caudal vertebrae, which altogether were only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. Of these the three basal ones appeared to have been embedded; the remainder forming the free part of the tail, which was only one inch in length, and half an inch in diameter. Here, then, the three embedded caudal vertebrae plainly correspond with the four coalesced vertebrae of the human os coccyx."

The early progenitors of man, says Mr. Darwin, were, no doubt, inferior in intellect, and probably in social disposition, to the lowest existing savages; but it is quite conceivable that they might have existed, or even flourished, if, while they gradually lost their brute-like powers, such as climbing trees, &c., they at the same time advanced in intellect. But granting that the progenitors of man were far more helpless and defenceless than any existing savages, if they had inhabited some warm continent, or large island, such as Australia or New Guinea, or Borneo (the latter island being now tenanted by the orang), they would not have been exposed to any special danger. In an area as large as one of these islands, the competition between tribe and tribe would have been sufficient, under favorable conditions, to have raised man, through the survival of the fittest, combined with the inherited effects of habit, to his present high position in the organic scale.

He continues:

"We are naturally led to enquire where was the birthplace of man at that stage of descent, when our progenitors diverged from the Catharine stock (of apes.) The fact that they belonged to this stock clearly shows that they inhabited the Old World; but not Australia nor any oceanic island, as we may infer from the laws of geographical distribution. In each great region of the world the living mammals are closely related to the extinct species of the same region. It is therefore probable that Africa was formerly inhabited by extinct apes closely allied to the gorilla and chimpanzee; and as these two species are now man's nearest allies, it is somewhat more probable that our early progenitors lived on the African continent than elsewhere: But it is useless to speculate on this subject, for an ape nearly as large as a man, namely, the *Dryopithecus* of Lartet, which was closely allied to the anthropomorphous *Hyllobates*, existed in Europe during the Upper Miocene

period; and since so remote a period the earth has certainly undergone many great revolutions, and there has been ample time for migration on the largest scale.

"At the period and place, whenever and wherever it may have been, when man first lost his hairy covering, he probably inhabited a hot country; and this would have been favorable for a frugiferous diet, on which, judging from analogy, he subsisted. We are far from knowing how long ago it was when man first diverged from the Catharine stock; but this may have occurred at an epoch as remote as the Eocene period; for the higher apes had diverged from the lower apes as early as the Upper Miocene period, as shown by the existence of the *Dryopithecus*. We are also quite ignorant at how rapid a rate organisms, whether high or low in the scale, may under favorable circumstances be modified; we know, however, that some have retained the same form during an enormous lapse of time. From what we see going on under domestication, we learn that within the same period some of the co-descendants of the same species may be not at all changed, some a little, and some greatly changed. Thus it may have been with man, who has undergone a great amount of modification in certain characters in comparison with the higher apes.

* * * The most ancient progenitor in the kingdom of the Vertebrata, a which we are able to obtain an obscure glance, apparently consisted of a group of marine animals, resembling the larve of existing Ascidians. These animals probably gave rise to a group of fishes, as lowly organized as the lancet; and from these the Ganoids, and other fishes like *Lepidosiren*, must have been developed. From such fish a very small advance would carry us on to the amphibians. We have seen that birds and reptiles were once intimately connected together; and the Monotremata now, in a slight degree, connect mammals with reptiles. But no one can at present say by what line of descent the three higher and related classes, namely, mammals, birds, and reptiles, were derived from either of the two lower vertebrate classes, namely, amphibians, and fishes. In the class of mammals the steps are not difficult to conceive which led from the ancient Monotremata to the ancient Marsupials; and from these to the early progenitors of the placental mammals. We may thus ascend to the Lemuridae; and the interval is not wide from these to the Simiadae. Simiadae then branched off into two great stems, the New World and New World monkeys; and from the latter, at a remote period, Man, the wonder and glory of the Universe, proceeded.

"Thus we have given to man a pedigree of prodigious length, but not, it may be said, of noble quality. The world, it has often been remarked, appears as if it had long been preparing for the advent of man; and this, in one sense, is strictly true, for he owes his birth to a long line of progenitors. If any single link in this chain had never existed, man would not have been exactly what he now is. Unless we willfully close our eyes, we may with our present knowledge approximately recognize our parentage; nor need we feel ashamed of it. The most humble organism is something much higher than the inorganic dust under our feet; and no one with an unbiassed mind can study any living creature, however humble, without being struck with enthusiasm at its marvelous structure and properties."

A Perilous Adventure.

From the *Ritchie Star*.

Last Tuesday afternoon Si. Brumage, who works at Wells' mill, distant one-half mile from this place, started to cross the river, above the dam, in a boat. The river was very high, and the current swift, so that Brumage was hurried down stream at a rapid rate, and was carried over the dam. His boat was overturned and himself drawn into the "suck" of the dam. After a short time he was again borne down stream, and not being able to swim, would have drowned; but Mr. I. W. Wells, who had witnessed the accident, plunged in to rescue him but failed. Brumage was carried down the stream about two hundred yards and sank, when Mr. Wells plunged in the second time and succeeded in securing and swimming to shore with him. Brumage was nearly dead, but after some trouble was resuscitated.

Another Disgusted White Man.

From the *Moorefield Advertiser*.

The news from the Capital is, that the Legislature has adopted the Flick Amendment. This intelligence will pain and surprise all true Democrats throughout the State. By adopting this broad indorsement of radical usurpations and villainy, the Democrats of the Legislature have willfully and deliberately violated the confidence and high public trust imposed in them by the people. We speak plainly, because in our judgment the time has come when men should speak out boldly and plainly. We did not expect this of the Legislature, and we know the people did not either. It looks a good deal like selling out to the radicals.

JOHN W. FORNEY, in his "Anecdotes of Public Men," illustrates the prescient business sagacity of Stephen A. Douglas by a bit of personal experience. In 1853, Mr. Douglas, pointing to the map, said to Mr. Forney: "How would you like to buy a share in Superior City, at Fond du Lac, the head of Lake Superior?" Mr. Forney replied that he had no money, but Mr. Douglas was so much in earnest and so sure of the profits of the investment, that Mr. F. was induced to borrow \$2,500 and buy a share in the prospective city. He divided this share equally with a friend, at Mr. Douglas's request. "After cutting my half-share into five parts," says Mr. Forney, "I sold and gave three-fifths to other friends, and, with my two fifths bought the Waverley House, in Washington. The proceeds of my moiety of the share of Superior City realized \$21,000. For that I was indebted to Stephen A. Douglas—God bless him!"

ULYSSES Jr., the President's son and a student at Harvard, has been visiting Governor Stearns at Concord. A private theatrical entertainment was given in his honor, and he subsequently waltzed with the pretty Concord girls until midnight, and attended church like a good boy on Sunday.

"My dear friend," said a gentleman to a bankrupt the other day, "I am sorry to hear of your misfortune. Your family has my warmest sympathies." "Oh, don't trouble yourself about my family. I looked out for them, you bet! Just save your sympathies for the families of my creditors."

"PRAY bestow your charity, young gentleman, on a poor blind man," said a beggar to a person passing by. "If you are blind, my good fellow, how did you know I was young?" "Oh, sir! I made a mistake," said the beggar; "pray give a trifle to a poor dumb man."

THE *Utica Observer* says that the Clear-field Fair consisted of a calf, a goose and a pumpkin, and that it rained so hard the first night that the goose swam off, the calf broke loose and ate the pumpkin, and a thief prowling around stole the calf, and that ended the fair.

A GERMAN physician, Dr. Hertmuller, has discovered that in his country unwedded women live on an average eight to ten years longer than wives and mothers of families. Is this encouraging or discouraging to ancient maidenhood?

LABRADOR SPLIT HERRINGS.—
25 Half Barrels, new and extra quality, just received and for sale by
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