



THE LATE
DR DARWIN F.R.S.

THE LATE DR. DARWIN.

[WITH PORTRAIT FROM PHOTO.]

MR. CHARLES DARWIN, the naturalist and philosopher, breathed his last on Wednesday afternoon last week at his residence, Down House, Down, near Farnborough, Kent, at the age of seventy-three. He had been suffering for some time past from weakness of the heart, but has continued to do a slight amount of experimental work up to the last. He was taken ill on the night of Tuesday, when he had an attack of pain in the chest with faintness and nausea, the latter lasting with more or less intermission during the following day, and culminated in his death, which took place at about four o'clock in the afternoon. He remained fully conscious to within a quarter of an hour of his death. His wife and several of his children were present at the closing scene. During his illness he had been attended by Dr. Norman Moore, Dr. Andrew Clark, Dr. Moxon, and Dr. Alfrey, of St. Mary Cray. The eminent philosopher leaves besides his widow a family of five sons and two daughters. It has been decided that his remains will be interred in Westminster Abbey. In addition to his works, by which the name of Mr. Darwin is so well known, his two most recent books on "The Power of Movement in Plants" and "The Formation of Vegetable Mould" will further enhance his fame. Quite recently, on the 16th of March last, he read two papers before the Linnæan Society on special botanical subjects, having thus, it would seem, died in the midst of the work which was so congenial to him.

We take the following memoir of this distinguished scientific discoverer and writer from "Men of the Time":—"Charles Robert Darwin, M.A., F.R.S., was born at Shrewsbury, February 12, 1809, being son of Dr. R. W. Darwin, F.R.S., of the same place, and grandson of Dr. Erasmus Darwin, F.R.S., author of the "Botanic Garden," "Zoonomia," &c. He was educated at the Grammar School at Shrewsbury. In 1825 he went to Edinburgh, attended the lectures at the University for two years, entered Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1827, took the degree of B.A. in 1832, and that of M.A. in 1837. Captain Fitzroy, R.N., having offered to give up part of his own cabin to anyone who would volunteer to accompany H.M.S. Beagle as naturalist, Mr. Darwin tendered his services, and sailed December 27th, 1831, in that vessel for the survey of South America and the circumnavigation of the globe, returning to England October 2nd, 1836. Mr. Darwin published "Journal of Researches into the Geology and Natural History of the Various Countries, &c., which appeared with a general account of the voyage by Captain Fitzroy, but has since been published separately. In 1839 Mr. Darwin married the granddaughter of Josiah Wedgwood, F.R.S., the well-known improver and manufacturer of earthenware. His "Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," published in 1859, which has gone through several editions at home and abroad, has given rise to much controversy. It was followed by numerous other works. Mr. Darwin, who had been elected a member of various foreign and English scientific bodies, received from the Royal Society the Royal Copley and medals for his various scientific works, and from the Geological Society the Wollaston Palladian medal. He has been created a knight of the order *Pour le Mérite* by the Prussian Government; and in June, 1871, he was elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Vienna. The University of Leyden conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.D. in February, 1875."