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MR. DARWIN.

It is possible that the slender volume containing  
his views has been designated as depending on humanity  
has been designated as depending on humanity  
should in itself have exhibited the highest  
features of human nature. It is acknowledged  
with one consent, by writers of every shade of  
thought, that the life which closed on Wednesday  
at the peaceful house in the hills of Kent, was  
one of the purest and noblest in the records of the  
race; and persons who may be troubled by Mr.  
Darwin's theories cannot fail to observe that  
whatever else his name has done for us, it has  
not diminished one jot the reverence for what is  
nearly and spiritually beautiful. Mr. Darwin  
was at first a man, that the progress of his  
general theories divides our admiration with  
the progress of his philosophical ideas; and in  
endeavouring to secure him everything that is written  
of him, we do but pass over, without  
him, to the simple story of his history, his way  
of thinking, his feelings, and his various acts of  
virtue. One journal, not disposed to exaggerate  
the great qualities of any man, especially of an  
inventor like Mr. Darwin, says of him that "a  
great and gentle nature blossomed into perfect  
form," and to one who has read his books, even  
cautiously and superficially, can have failed to gain  
from them as profound an admiration for the  
great qualities as for the genius of the writer.  
It is evident, then, that the doctrine of evolution  
had no demeriting effect upon Mr. Darwin's  
own nature. He closed eyes of the feeling of  
those persons who seemed to suppose that, as  
evolutionists, particularly with us, we were superior  
to everything our kind in the line of  
virtues of humanity; but, on the contrary, we  
are made of a noble and beautiful life which  
only the best of his contemporaries, whether  
their talents might be, could hope to emulate. Of  
Mr. Darwin's influence on human thought we  
can estimate our part, if we are to be true, but it  
is a marvellous testimony to the goodness of his  
genius that theories which, a few years ago,  
excited the malignant feelings of the religious  
world, are now adopted without shame by all the  
leading spirits of the time; and we find the  
most Conservative newspapers saying that  
"Christians can accept the main scientific basis of  
Evolution just as they do the laws of astronomy and  
geology, without any prejudice to more ancient  
and cherished beliefs." Mr. Darwin's influence  
by his methods as much as by his facts. The loss  
of truth was so transparent that no honest man  
could resist it. Of "the earth for thousands years  
has been" he was simply incapable, and nothing  
could stand before a conscientious, earnest  
enquiry, who got rational notions about  
the earth as he called a new discovery, because  
such, in the different way, led to being his  
own his god. The mind of Mr. Darwin's  
life seems somewhat opportunity as the general  
nature, as noted in this paper, but as necessary  
connection with systems, with scientific meth-  
ods, or with a few sentences of his follow-  
ing. The great truth of human progress is  
provided to us as a life of varied years, with a  
great method upon human nature; and when we  
read that such a life was lived in a distant house,  
the heart which it teaches, that a great  
spiritual nobility has its natural ally with  
genius, and the power to read. Mr. Darwin  
was a necessary man, what will his nature  
have, to which he has been an indispensable  
nature as the triumph of one of the world's  
greatest thinkers, do to know his nature, or  
rather to read his own history. The fact is  
shown to have, but the fact of three years  
before the opening of Darwin's genius and the  
growth of his theories. The people of the century  
we are told, may be said to appreciate ourselves  
Darwin, the greatest of this century; but it  
is scarcely possible they will fail to come, say to  
show that our civilization naturally is linked  
with the great Englishman who taught, and the  
effortless spirit of the highest world, is  
found in Darwin's theory, where, of all the  
writers who ever lived, he is, as far as he  
concerns us, the just.