



At dawn, my neighbors, living o'er the way,
 Sent me the whisper that their babe was dead ;
 And when they led me where the body lay—
 The free, winged spirit's shell, untimely shed—
 And the wild cries of their distress I heard,
 I thought with pity of each parent bird.

Yet grief is but a cloud that soon is past ;
 For there the mated robins came once more,
 And built again a nest, compact, and fast
 Upon the tree that grows before my door ;
 And in it, from the window, could be seen
 Five sources of sweet music, new and clean.

Time passed, and to the good home opposite
 Another babe was born, and all the love
 That was bereft that fierce and stormy night,
 Fell to the latter child as from above ;
 And in the nest five yellow mouths one day,
 Of their impatient hunger made display.

We love our dead, and hold their memories dear ;
 But living love is sweeter than regret.
 God's ways are just, and though they seem severe,
 He can give back with blessings greater yet
 Than we have lost. He chastens for some good,
 That in our weakness is not understood.

PROFESSOR CHARLES DARWIN.

BY THE EDITOR.

THERE is no living man, probably, whose portrait our readers will feel more curiosity to see than that of PROFESSOR CHARLES DARWIN. We have taken some pains, accordingly, to procure a good photograph, and to have it carefully engraved, and we commend the engraving to our readers as an excellent and accurate likeness. Of the life of Professor DARWIN we can give only a brief and concise statement of leading events. Few men who have attained such fame have succeeded so well in keeping public curiosity out of the details of his private and personal life ; and those who know him at all must know him for the present by his works.

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN was born at Shrewsbury, February 12, 1809, being a son of Dr. Robert W. Darwin, physician of that town ; his mother was a daughter of Josiah Wedgwood, the modern founder of the English pottery manufacture, with whose biography, written by Miss Mete-

yard, the reader is probably familiar. Mr. Darwin's grandfather was the celebrated Dr. Erasmus Darwin, the author of the "Botanic Garden," "Zoonomia," "Origin of Society," etc. It may be assumed that it was from him the grandson inherited not only the general tendency, but the direction towards a particular line of speculation. Mr. Darwin was educated first at Shrewsbury School under Dr. Butler, afterwards Bishop of Lichfield ; he went to the University of Edinburgh in 1825, remained there two years, and was next entered of Christ's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1831. His hereditary aptitude for the study of natural science must have been early perceived by his instructors. The Rev. Mr. Henslow, Professor of Botany at Cambridge, recommended him, therefore, to Captain Fitzroy and the Lords of the Admiralty in 1831, when a naturalist was to be chosen to accompany the second surveying expedition of H. M. S. Beagle

in the Southern Seas. The first expedition, that of the *Adventure* and *Beagle*, 1826 to 1830, had explored the coasts of Patagonia; the *Beagle*, which sailed again December 27, 1831, and returned to England October 22, 1836, made a scientific circumnavigation of the globe. Its main object was, by a continuous series of chronometrical measurements, to procure a complete chain of meridian distances. There were also magnetic observations of some importance; but the zoölogy, botany, and geology of the different countries visited were examined by Mr. Darwin. He served without salary, and partly paid his own expenses, on condition that he should have the entire disposal of his collections. These were received in England by Professor Henslow. Their value to the advancement of science was shown by the special reports upon these collections of the highest authorities in each case; of Professor Owen, upon the fossil mammalia; of Mr. Waterhouse, upon the living beasts; of Mr. Gould, upon the birds; of Dr. Hooker, Professor Henslow, and others upon the plants; and of the most learned men in fishes, reptiles, and insects. Mr. Darwin discovered in South America three new genera of extinct animals. The President of the Geological Society declared that his voyage was one of the most important events for that science that had occurred for many years. To the general reader few books of travel can be more attractive than Mr. Darwin's "Journal" of this expedition, which he first published in 1839, and which has since gone through many editions. It was in this same year that Mr. Darwin married his cousin, Miss Emma Wedgwood. Since the voyage of the *Beagle*, Mr. Darwin has not, we believe, been personally engaged in any distant explorations. He has resided for many years past near Farnborough, in Kent. In addition to numerous papers on scientific subjects, Mr. Darwin has written three elaborate works on geology, viz.: "The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs," published in 1842; "Geological Observations on Volcanic Islands," in 1844; and "Geological Observations on South America," 1846. The honors of several British and foreign scientific societies have been conferred upon him; the Royal medal and Copley medal, by

the Royal Society; the Wollaston medal, by the Geological Society; and he has been created by the King of Prussia Knight of the Order of Merit. He has frequently contributed to the transactions of the Geological, the Zoölogical, the Linnæan, and other botanical societies; and his treatise on the Cirripedia, published by the Ray Society in 1851-3, is one of his works held in much esteem. Botanists have appreciated his observations of the habits of climbing plants, and his very interesting book, published in 1862, upon the methods by which the fertilization of orchids is effected through the agency of certain insects.

But M. Darwin's reputation is based chiefly upon the famous philosophical theory, which has been identified with his name, and which was first expounded in his "Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection." This bold and ingenious essay first appeared in 1859, and has since been translated into all the leading European languages. Unlike most philosophical works, it made at once a profound *popular* impression; thousands of copies of it have been sold; and it has brought about a complete change of front, and inspired new meaning into the whole of the natural sciences. Indeed, considering the radical and startling results of the theory, its general and speedy acceptance by the larger and more influential part of the leading scientific men of the world is not the least wonderful feature in connection with it.

The "Descent of Man," which still further elucidates the theory, and carries it to its logical conclusion, is only just published, and an estimate of its effects can hardly as yet be made. Much thinking and much work will have to be done before the verdict is finally made up, but the various arguments, as they are presented, will be promptly laid before our readers.

Besides the above-mentioned books, Mr. DARWIN has written "Animals and Plants Under Domestication"—a very striking and comprehensive work, but one which is comparatively little known to popular readers. It is too elaborate and somewhat too technical in character to suit the public taste, yet it seems to us in some respects the most remarkable of the whole series of DARWIN'S books.