

**RECORD:** Anon. 1871. [Review of *Descent*]. The latest form of infidelity. *Raleigh Christian Advocate* (Raleigh, North Carolina), (6 September): 2

**REVISION HISTORY:** Transcribed by Christine Chua and edited by John van Wyhe. 2.2021.  
RN1

[page] 2

The latest form of infidelity.

Mr. Charles Darwin has written a work titled, "The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex."

This book has become famous in the theological and scientific world. According to this book, "Man, the wonder and glory of the Universe, proceeded" from a very low origin. The conclusion of the book is that man is descended from a hairy quadruped, provided with a tail and pointed ears, now known as the monkey; this progenitor [sic] of man was probably derived from some ancient kangaroo or opossum, and this through a long line of diversified forms, either from some reptile or some animal which lived in water and on land, and this from a fish like animal, and this again from the laval of a marine mollusk which united in a pouch-like body, brain and heart, and had no organs of locomotion. It will be seen from this brief synopsis of the views of Mr. Darwin how thoroughly they contradict the teachings which for eighteen hundred years have been received as the legitimate conclusions of the Scriptures.

There is in the "Descent of Man" no interpretation of, nor even admission of, the truthfulness of the Old Testament record of the creation of man. The theory is not atheistic, for God could have *evoluted* man from a clam or an oyster, but it is defiant of the Scriptures and claims a prominent place in that movement of modern science which strives to push God, as Creator, not only lack, but far out of the phenomena of the Universe.

Science may admit the plausibility of the hypothesis of Mr. Darwin, and we know that there is no advance in science without much guessing –the hypothesis of the scientist and the guessing of the Yankee is similar –but when God is so *guessed* out of the historic world that he is only admitted in some remote period to have [5 words illeg] reptile, then an opossum, then an ape, then a man, we prefer to wait for more evidence than now appears before we give in our adhesion to the theory.

During the last fifty years scientific record has exhibited the phenomena of natural philosophers advocating theories with persistent enthusiasm which wider and later studies have obliged them to abandon. We wait until Mr. Darwin has gone through this ordained cycle. In the meanwhile, we retain our faith in the Word of God, while we advise clergymen to acquaint themselves with this new origin of man.

[...]