

A NEW PHASE OF DARWINISM.

Mr. Darwin comes up smiling. All the orthodox denunciation; all the scientific distrust; all the individual distaste that have been expressed in regard to his doctrine tracing the origin of man back to that of the monkey, only seem to have rendered his good-nature imperturbable. If his views be still theoretical, he shows a fertility of resource, and a verisimilitude to demonstration, that is highly entertaining, if not yet absolutely useful. The latest phase of evolution comes in the form of a book which Mr. Darwin has published on "The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals," but brief glimpses of which have as yet been given through the press. All those who are familiar with Mr. Darwin's faculty of specializing from his grand generalization, and the extensive resources of his reading and observation, will conceive that it has been possible for him to discover and explain many interesting curiosities.

Mr. Darwin starts out with recalling the fact that it has been customary to regard the whole subject of expression as inexplicable. He holds that this has been the case simply because of the practice of regarding men and animals as independent creations, and that his theory of a common origin of species elucidates what has heretofore been a mass of apparent contradictions, and an arbitrary jumble. At the same time, by an ingenious process of compensation, the similarity of expressions that is traced between men and animals is made to contribute to the establishment of the doctrine of evolution. This is something akin to what logicians call arguing in a circle; but excellent results have been attained by a similar process in astronomy, and what is tolerable in exact science may certainly be admitted in metaphysics. A few of Mr. Darwin's illustrations may be briefly recited to make his new application plain. The bristling of the hair under the influence of extreme terror can only be explained, says Mr. Darwin, in the belief that man once existed in a lower and animal-like condition, where this expression is common. The same is true, he holds, of a similar movement of the facial muscles in the laughter of men and monkeys. The common gesture of children in jerking away one shoulder, when in a pettish mood, finds a counterpart in the action of certain animals. Weeping is traced by Mr. Darwin to the usual outcry of

children and animals when hungry,—a prolonged screaming, filling the blood-vessels of the eye, contracting the muscles, and effecting the lachrymal glands. Tears, which are thus traced to a natural source, eventually become habitual and imitative, which accounts for the common expression of pain or grief in weeping. Pouting is one of the most curious illustrations which Mr. Darwin brings to his theory. The protrusion of the lower lip is the common mode of expressing anger or discontent among the young orangs and chimpanzees. Among civilized people, this expression is still common with the children, and Mr. Darwin has collected evidences that it is universal among the Chinese, Abyssinians, Malays, Kafirs, Fingoes, Hottentots, Indians, and a host of other barbarous and semi-barbarous peoples, even when they become adults.

One charm of Mr. Darwin's applications is that they are susceptible of amplification according to individual experience. He might find in this a practical confirmation of his doctrine. One instance of expression that would naturally occur to everybody would be the commonly-quoted similarity between the cackling of a hen with one chicken and the petting tones of a mother with one child. There would be a mutual verification of the cases in which man's hair had turned white in one night with great grief, and the black crow that turned white in the same length of time at the fright of a shot which didn't hit him. This would be mainly convincing to the man who saw the crow turn white. The low, grumbling tones of the uniformly selfish man compared to the grunts of the swine; the mellow voice of a sweet and amiable woman and the notes of the free and happy birds; the nestling propensities that are to be found in the young offspring of men and animals; these and many other variations will be suggested by the resemblances that Mr. Darwin has found, though the latter has entered into the detail of expression with wonderful industry of research. Whether or not any individual reader may find in these similarities any further proof of a common origin of races, all will experience a pleasure in following his curious identity of expression, which, at least, has a more plausible explanation in the doctrine of evolution than it has ever before received.
