

RECORD: Hoare, J. C. 1877.11.20. A Poem [with a drawing of Darwin]. CUL-DAR140.1.24. Transcribed by Christine Chua, edited by John van Wyhe (Darwin Online, <http://darwin-online.org.uk/>)

REVISION HISTORY: Transcribed by Christine Chua and edited by John van Wyhe 3.2020. RN1.

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Introduction by Christine Chua:

James Charles Hoare (1781-1865) was Darwin's Cambridge friend. Hoare became a preacher and before Darwin set sail on the Beagle, he went to church on 25 December 1831 and found Hoare preaching there. Hoare wrote Darwin the poem as a tribute to being awarded Cambridge LL.D.

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"Darwin;" the sunset of thy life is cheered,
By recognition;- Honours never sought,
Though nobly earned; will make thy name revered!
Few have so gallantly for Science fought;
Maligned, abused, with falsehoods too assailed,
Disdaining answer; - but Truth has prevailed.

Science is honoured in thy triumph! – all
Who "think," must thank thee, for what thou hast now;
Tis not alone, mens mind released from thrall,
Humanity is raised, by what you've done; -
Before, - All life, seemed tainted at it fount;
Now, - more can guess, how high, mans mind may mount.

Unfettered by a Faith, that all debased,
By teaching, man was born degenerate;
Life's highest error, you at once effaced,
And soon mankind your name will venerate;
Not for release from mental slavery
Alone; - but for your dauntless bravery!

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[Drawing by C H Jeens]

Charles Darwin

From a Photograph by O.G. Rejlander

Presented to the Subscribers to Nature No. 240 June 4th 1874

London Published by Maxmillan & Co. 1874