

One of the most interesting books which we ever perused, and one which every cultivator of the soil ought to read, is Dr. Charles Darwin's latest work, "The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Earthworms." These lowly creatures receive but scant courtesy from the tillers of the soil, when their presence is supposed to be prejudicial to crops, but after a study of Dr. Darwin's book we think they will view with greater leniency the somewhat repulsive appearance and treacherous habits of worms, which they will learn are more than redeemed by the important part they play in the formation of the rich mould in which crops and plants of many kinds most delight to luxuriate. There are few books which will better repay perusal by the farmer and every tiller of the earth, and we strongly commend it to all who are interested in productiveness of soil, as well as to those who devote their attention to the wonderful workings of the lower forms of creation for the benefit of man and animated nature.

**Darwin's Great Work.**—The translation of *Animals and Plants Under Domestication*, by Charles Darwin, author and editor, with a Preface to the American edition by the Author, and one by Professor Jan Mayr, of Cambridge, Mass. The most perfect volume yet published. The first English edition was a magnificent work, and never surpassed by its equal. Mr. Darwin included some additions, and sent us the sheets as soon as they were printed, together with many additional manuscripts. As these needed to be re-arranged one by one on the back of the sheets, we were obliged to place them on paper pasted in the work. While American readers will look to the note where these additions occur in, he will have the work printed by the first up to the latest moment, and a more complete copy than ever the latest English edition. Mr. Darwin, not knowing that Professor Mayr had made a paper in the American edition, sent us one of his own, which gave his own note of the new work exactly corresponding to the sections to insert it. The book presents the most remarkable collection of facts concerning our domestic animals and plants yet brought together, and for this alone it is of the highest value. But the most interesting portion of the work, in the thoughtful reader, is the speculative views of the author. In these the great problems of inheritance, evolution, influence of external conditions of life, development, and the like, are put in a new light with remarkable clearness and force. The philosophical results deduced from the discussion of domestic animals and plants find an application to all animals, including the human species. While the work will be best interesting only, but useful to every one engaged in propagating animals or plants, it commends itself more to the less intelligent reader, who will find abundant food for thought, and in some of the essential and other important questions, whose answers will be interesting to the students.

Since our announcement of the receipt of this work we have seen the London *Horticulturist's Chronicle* has come to hand with an extended notice, from which we extract the following: "Mr. Darwin's work on domesticated animals and plants, whose appearance we assumed a fortnight ago, is one of such importance to both the practical and theoretical gardener, as well as to all persons who are engaged in any industry connected with agriculture and husbandry, that it must claim a large share of our attention, so long as this country has for its special work, and the source of information it contains. Written in admirable English, using an scientific terms but such as are comprehensible to men of fair education, lucidly arranged, and imbued with originality and force, there is not a paragraph in the volume who has any taste for the history or theory of life and soil will peruse it with pleasure and profit, and find it difficult to say whether he will regard it more as a compendium of facts or as an intellectual treatise and to-day. In his chapters on agriculture as well as in Mr. Darwin's pages on horticulture regarding dogs and horses, their breeds and their qualities, we never entered the realm of the grotesque, superstitious, or fanciful of the fanciful. Is he a farmer? here are instructions and observations regarding cattle, pigs, sheep, and game, which no professional breeder can match for matter or truth, and which few laymen will believe or care about, but because they are not true, but because men so-called practical men take no interest in animals beyond what immediately concerns themselves. Is my lady a field garden, is he the city or country? but gardeners will have had a wealth of information on domesticated birds of all class, value, and uses, from the Canary Mall and parrot to the turkey and goose. Lastly, in the chapter's division with the advice about their habits, diseases, have been pointed, or cultivated? If they do, here are chapters of natural history about such and all, treated with masterly skill and originality. With regard to these botanical subjects, we must confess ourselves to recommending the study of them in Mr. Darwin's pages to those who have time to do so, and proceed boldly to regard the purpose and method of this remarkable book to be for us it is derived to the 'republican Kingdom.'"

The work is published in two neat volumes, of over 500 pages each, bound in cloth. Price by mail, post paid, \$1.50—less than half the price of the English edition.

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