The Echo.

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THE ANGEL OR THE APE?"

CENDED from the Conqueror" sounds many ears; it is more than eight years ago. But what are Garter Arms or Sir Bernard Burke as pedi- nters compared with Mr. Darwin? The of "the Descent of Man" takes us hundreds and hundreds of ages, till we longer give any account of time, and es us to our ancestry—a group of animals. As for the monkey, if we believe Mr. Darwin, we were more lf way towards manhood when we first that form. We refuse to be master ceremonies on this occasion; we must the distinguished author of "The Origin ies" to introduce our readers to those who es to be their very earliest ancestry:—

most ancient progenitors in the kingdom of the , at which we are able to obtain an obscure pparently consisted of a group of marine animals, g the larvæ of existing Ascidians. These robably gave rise to a group of fishes as lowly some points about [illegible] as [illegible] , preparing for the advent of man; and this, in , is strictly true, for he owes his birth to a long genitors. If any single link in this chain had ed, man would not have been exactly what he Unless we wilfully close our eyes, we may, with nt knowledge, approximately recognise our ; nor need we feel ashamed of it. The most rganism is something much higher than the but under our feet; and no one with an un- nd can study any living creature, however without being struck with enthusiasm at its structure and properties."

will Mr. Disraeli say to this? In pre- the now Bishop of Winchester he put tion to himself which stands at the head rticle, and replied that "he was for the But an aquatic animal, and that too r form! Mr. Darwin says:—Don't rned. Between a clever monkey eel there is a much wider gap at makes the pride of manhood than the latter and some of those lowest humanity of whom Dr. Livingstone . The bases of Mr. Darwin's rea- are well known. The intermediate at which Mr. Darwin arrives Man is descended from a hairy qua- furnished with a tail and pointed ears) arboreal in its habits and an inhabitant d World." But no one can rush off to Park in the belief that he will meet a ive, however strong may be his faith in ein. For, says he:—

ast to bodily size and strength, we do not know an is descended from some comparatively es, like the chimpanzee, or from one as power- gorilla; and therefore we cannot say whether some larger and stronger, or smaller and mparison with his progenitors."

, of course, can affirm the truth of Mr. theories; yet if they were proved, they be so derogatory to the dignity of man suppose, because they would show a e of progress of which he is the most inheritor, and which will lead him ome Creative influence, he knows not ar to what stage of worthiness of his Mr. Darwin asks: If the progeni- had not existed, such [illegible] point in the folded margin of the The foundation of his theory is that ns of animals is accomplished by the ow as that of man—by the need under umstances of supplying certain wants. ust allow Mr. Darwin to be his own He ends his work with these words:— ole conclusion arrived at in this work, namely, descended from some lowly-organised form, ar to think, be highly distasteful to many . . . For my own part I would as descended from that heroic little monkey who ded enemy in order to save the life of his than that old baboon who, descending from ins, carried away in triumph his young com- ed of tattooed dogs—as from a savage ed to torture his enemies, offers up bloody practises infanticide without remorse, treats his wives, knows no decency, and is haunted by superstitions."

ay be excused for feeling some pride at having ed up through his own exertions, to the ad of the organic scale; and the fact of his ion, instead of having been aboriginally ed, may give him hopes for a still higher in the distant future. But we are not here with hopes or fears, only with the truth as far son allows us to discover it. I have given ly to the best of my ability; and we must en, as it seems to me, that man with all his ble, with sympathy which feels for the most ng benevolence which extends not only to ery to the humblest living creature, with his ence which has penetrated into the move- constitution of the solar system—with all of past generations—Man still bears in his bodily frame ible stamp of his lowly origin."

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