The book is altogether rather an interesting than a con-
vincing one. Great labour has been employed in making a
collection of facts bearing upon natural history, which
only tend to disappoint us in their application. Thus the
absurdities of instinct, of memory, and affection displayed
by animals have really little or no weight when put in
the balance against the human understanding. Any little
led who could not reason well as the most intelligent
retriever or most highly educated monkey would assuredly
be regarded as an idiot; and here we see in a moment the
inviscible barrier which separates the several races.
Still, Mr. Darwin has his followers, and no question but
that in the scientific world it is fast becoming the fashion
to go rather than the time when the world was created.
Some year or so since we had the pleasure of hearing
Professor Huxley lecture on the Pedigree of the Horse;
not of Kingergut, or Magnagregor, although it was just
previous to the Derby, nor even daring to notice the
Goddolphin or the Darly Arabby. Admitting in the
custom that the horses and sages of a remote period, long
before any indications of the existence of man had been
found, resembled in nearly every respect the horses and
sages which now run wild in many parts of Asia and
Africa, the Professor promised to trace these to the
hipparion, an animal with two little hoofs or fingers, and
thence to his "hypothetical ancestor," the anthriscus, with
tree of the fore-before; or further back yet, to the
plioglophin minor, which differs from the horse only
in degree, and not in kind. The Professor here
brought his pedigree to a point, triumphantly asking
whether the horse did not succeed the hipparion, was it created
out of nothing? Of course, this kind of argum-
ment might be extended ad infinitumus, as, for instance,
was the plioglophin minor created out of nothing? or
how was it origin brought about? Mr. Huxley is a
disciple of Asisius, of whom, as we have endeavoured to show,
traces the pedigree of man back in much the same
way to some lowly organized material, although without
the least analogy to it. As to the horse, it may
have been originally a plioglophin minor, but if we are
to put any faith in the first chapter of Genesis, man in
the first place, or the second chapter of Genesis, the
dominion was the man's mind, which Mr. Darwin
builds up from some inferior foundation.