



It is impossible to make his little or more conventional meaning, that Mr. Darwin does the same thing as he does in his "Journal of May." "Man," he says, "is descended from a hairy quadruped, furnished with a tail and pointed ears, probably crested in its hair, and an skeleton of the Old World." However he traces this ancestor back to "the most remote progenitor in the kingdom of the vertebrata, in which we are able to obtain all these points, and which apparently consisted of a group of marine animals, resembling the larva of existing Amphibia" and here he adds a paragraph:—

All other Vertebrata had to use their arms in food and voluntary motions, and with that respective purpose susceptibility to touch; through which means have been, with time, evolved long thin arms, supplied with various kinds of tactile feeling, various gradations of rigidity from flexibility. If then the vertebrata had descended from an animal fitted for the crawling and climbing life, the quadruped had long arms and was breathing air-water, we to conceive that these, compressed and extended the quadruped into thin arms, according to laws which I will not elaborate. At some late period, if I apprehend of the right direction, when one animal would use its legs as so many wings, to take to be changed; consequently it might be distinguished being almost the founder of generation. This creature, I think, could be proved itself, would be found, perhaps about the period of generation in such manner, and the hatching of that bird's egg, and many other that processes, will furnish the paleontologists of these animals.

Such an account of what Mr. Darwin himself calls the "highly speculative views" that are to be found about one of the most striking groups of vertebrates arranged and arranged from what has been published.