

The Kind of Letters he Gets and the Kind of Man he Is.

[London Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.]

LONDON, March 9.

The letters which Charles Darwin gets from various parts of the world are sometimes instructive, but more often amusing. People in Australia, India, New Zealand, America, and elsewhere pour upon him information concerning their cats and dogs, their birds and monkeys, and give him accounts of how they or their friends have points to their ears like the fabled fauns, and can move their ears forward and backward like horses. The narratives are sometimes masked by simplicity, as when a man writes that he has a dog which always knows, when his master takes his hat and cane, that he (the master) means to take a walk! But for the most part the letters are severe in their animadversion upon the great naturalist for the impiety of his discoveries. America particularly sends him the evidence that his "conversion" is being ardently prayed for by a number of saints. One of the last letters he received was from a zealous Christian in Kentucky, who in his religious ardor, begins his letter with, "You God d--d scoundrel!" I have received advices from Ohio that some lecturer or preacher has been going about in that State who, being unable otherwise to answer Darwin's scientific facts, resorts to the plan of belittling him personally. This lecturer is reported as saying that Darwin is personally of such mean and degraded presence that he has been often called "the missing link." Probably that idea has come through the comic pictorial newspapers of this country which, since the "Descent of Man" was written, have once or twice represented the author's face attached to a simial body. It may be as well to say to those who have made, or heard, such representations, that Mr. Darwin is a man of the most impressive appearance. Large and noble in figure, he has a head and face much more likely to remind one who sees him of Michael Angelo's magnificent bust of Moses, in Rome, than of any inferior being. Mr. Darwin has not, indeed, any soft pink-white beauty, but his massive forehead, his dome like head, his blonde complexion, his long flowing beard, are such as physiognomists would pick out among a thousand as belonging to a man of mark. When colonel T. W. Higginson was here, he went to see Darwin, and told me afterward that his appearance was best represented by the word "majesty." He (Darwin) belongs to one of the oldest families in England, to a family which has always possessed the means of attaining the highest culture, and the great naturalist's home represents the atmosphere of refinement which can be obtained only by generations of improvement. He is what the English mean when they use the word "gentleman."

But, to those who are really interested to find the "missing link," the following, taken from the last paper which has reached this country from Siam, may be worthy of attention. On the Island of Borneo, says this paper—the *Siam Weekly Advertiser*—has been found a certain race of wild creatures, of which kindred varieties have been discovered in the Philippine Islands, in Terre del Fuego, and in South America. They walk unusually, almost erect, on two legs, and in that attitude measure about four feet in height. They construct no habitations, form no families, scarcely associate together, sleep in caves and trees, feed on snakes and vermin, on ants' eggs, and on each other. They can not be tamed or forced to any labor, and are hunted and shot among the trees like the great gorilla, of which they are a stunted copy. When captured alive, one finds with surprise that their uncouth jabbering sounds are like articulate language. They turn up a human face to gaze at their captors, and the females show instincts of modesty. In fine, these wretched beings are men and women.