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With his right hand clasps the left of his comrade, who is in this manner led down to the nests. Did any one, I ask, see such a performance? The bees, p. 68, account for the treeless condition of the morrow lands northward from the mouth of the Xingi and on the island of Marajó, in the immediate neighborhood of heavy timber, will not admit of extended application. These meadows are flooded for a portion of the year, but become very dry during the season of low water. The author says, "they are alternately soaked and baked; hence the forest trees will not grow on them, but they flourish well on the banks, where their roots are only covered during three or four weeks of each year." Flooded forests are not uncommon, and in California, with its seasons of wet and dry, there are magnificent forest-growth. There is a striking similarity between the conditions in the meadows of the Amazonas and in the prairie regions of the Mississippi Valley. Level, grass-covered tracts, with soft soil fine as to be almost impalpable, exist by the side of groves and forests on soil more coarse and broken. When the river rises, the coarse detritus is deposited near the bed, and a bank is built up which is covered with trees; further out, in the still waters covering the meadow, the fine sediment settles to the bottom and on this the grasses flourish. The case is a good one in support of Professor Whitney's theory of the origin of the prairies—namely, that the character of the soil prevents the growth of timber; it is too fine. We are told on p. 620 that "a river valley can only be scooped out when the land is above the surface of the sea, that as the sea sinks the shelf of the entrance, and a lowland results;" etc.; and that the Amazonas has no true delta because "it has hardly had time yet to fill in the estuary bay. Moreover, the sea bottom beyond the mouth must have sunk with the river valley, and the river will require a vast period to build it up to the level of the surface." According to Agassiz the reason why there is no delta is that "the sea is eating away the land much faster than the river can build it up. He also proved that idea of Marajó a piece of the mainland, and suggested that if the eating process should continue for countless ages there is a possibility of the valley being cut away as far as the Madeira.

Mr. Smith is enthusiastic in his descriptions of the beautiful and picturesque. His book is much above the average of popular works on similar subjects; few are so carefully written.

The Refutation of Darwinism, and the Converse Theory of Development, based exclusively on Darwin's Facts, etc., by T. Warren O'Neill, member of the Philadelphia Bar. (Philadelphia: B. Lippincott & Co. 12mo, pp. 454. 1880.)—This is a thoroughgoing book. "The design is to show that the very same facts which Darwin confesses his inability to explain, yet upon which he relies to sustain his theory, may be explained in a way which signally disproves the theory that man and other beings of animal and vegetable creation were evolved from one of types." "All of Darwin's facts are taken for granted, as are all of his scientific factors. The same facts, however, are differently apportioned, with but a slight variation from Darwin's mode of distribution of them."

This new reading of the facts which Mr. Darwin has laboriously accumulated has resulted in two discoveries; one of these reverses the common estimate of Mr. Darwin's character, the other reverses his theory. The first discovery is that Mr. Darwin cannot be the ingenuous and candid person he has had the credit of being. He "confesses, how frankly we do not know" (p. 49). A few pages farther on we are told of something which might suggest to the reader that Darwin, in being so complacent content with his ignorance of any cause for variation, was governed by the fear that, if he exercised any great solicitude to find a cause, the cause might be only too ready in forthcoming, to the signal discomfiture of both himself and his theory." On p. 38, the author says, "I cannot refrain from saying that it is obvious, or a well-known "de facto consciousness" that something which Darwin well knew "would sound the knell of Darwinism," alone prevented him from disclosing the fatal fact. Darwin "has settled in his own mind that all the improvements which arise are due to reversion," though he says the contrary, having, "to all seeming, thought it discreet" to say, in short, the opposite of what he believed; and when Mr. Darwin refuses "to explain the variations by means of reversion," O'Neill says he does it "with a quavering, least unique," which is certainly true if all the while he believed the opposite. In this similar taste Mr. O'Neill gets up an imaginary argument (pp. 75-78), at the end of which "Mr. Darwin . . . departs to assure his friend Tyndall that his theory about 'giving the religious sentiments of mankind reasonable satisfaction' is altogether utopian."

The author is a member of the Philadelphia bar—we judge one of the younger, from these and other specimens, and from the exceedingly cocksureness of the whole treatise. We can understand the old counsel's advice: "A bad case: abuse the plaintiff's attorney; but we do not understand why a lawyer bringing a civil (?) action, with perfect assurance of a verdict, should think it needful to abuse the defendant personally. Moreover, the whole raison d'être of the book is in the other discovery, namely, that what is called variation is reversion, that in all variation there is no acquisition of something new but a recovery of char-

Cincinnati's Beginnings. By Francis W. Miller. (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thomson. 1880. Pp. 325.)—This book is rather a history of the "Miami Purchase" than of Cincinnati. Of the nine chapters of the body of the work only the two last may be said to be about Cincinnati's Beginnings. The first part of the book is very pretty full and con-

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