Darwin's Great Work.—The Formation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication. By Charles Darwin. Authorized edition, with a Preface to the American edition by the Author, and one by Professor A. Gray, or Cambridge, Mass. The most perfect edition yet published. The first English edition was exhausted in a week, and a new one called for; in the reprint, Mr. Darwin included some additions, and sent on the sheet for action as they were printed together with many additions in manuscript. As these reached us just as our edition was in the hands of the binder, we were obliged to place them on pages prefixed to the work. If the American reader will mark in the text where these additions come in, he will see how the work revised by the author up to the latest moment, and a more complete copy than even the latest English edition. Mr. Darwin, not knowing that Professor Gray had made a preface to the American edition, sent us one of his own, which puts his estimate of his own work so neatly and modestly that we chose to insert it. The book presents the most remarkable collection of facts concerning our domestic animals and plants yet brought together, and for this alone it is of the highest value. Not the least interesting portion of the work, to the thoughtfu reader, is the speculative views of the author. In these the great problems of inheritance, reversion, influence of external conditions of life, domestication, and the like, are put in a new light with remarkable clearness and force. The philosophical results derived from the discussion of domestic animals and plants find an application in all animals, including the human species. While the work will be of interest only, but useful to every one engaged in propagating animals or plants, it commends itself none the less to the intelligent reader, who will find abundant food for thought, and to men of the medical and other learned professions, who cannot fail to be instructed by its contents.

Since our announcement of the reprint of this work was in type, the London Gardeners' Chronicle has come to hand with an extended notice, from which we extract the following: Mr. Darwin's work on domesticated animals and plants, whose appearance we announced a fortnight ago, is one of such importance to both the practical and theoretical gardener, as well as to all persons with whom the gardener is most closely associated, professionally and socially, that it must claim a large share of our attention, no less on this account than for its special merits, and the store of information it contains. Written in admirable English, using no scientific terms but such as are comprehensible to the man of fair education, clearly arranged, and indexed with scrupulous care, there is not a gardener in the country who has not tasted for the history or theory of his art but will peruse it with pleasure and profit, and find it difficult to say whether he values it more as a storehouse of facts or as an incitement to observe and to think. Is he a sportsman? he will find in Mr. Darwin's pages such information regarding dogs and horses, their breeds and individualities, as never entered the brain of the gamekeeper, equerry, or master of the hounds. Is he a farmer? here are anecdotes and observations regarding cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats, which no professional breeder can match for number or truth, and which too few of these will believe or care about, not because they are not true, but because they are not so-called practical men take no interest in animals beyond what immediately concerns themselves. Is my lady a bowfow fancier, or has she an aviary? her gardener will find a wealth of information on domesticated birds of all sizes, voices, and uses, from the canary bird and peacock to the turkey and goose. Lastly, do his master's children seek his advice about their rabbits, pigeons, honey bees, goldfish, or silkworms? if they do, here are curiosities of natural history about each and all, treated with mastery studied and originality. With regard to these zoological subjects, we must confine ourselves to recommending the study of them in Mr. Darwin's pages to those who have time to do so, and proceed briefly to expose the theory and method of this remarkable book in so far as it is devoted to the vegetable kingdom.

The work is published in two neat volumes, of over 500 pages each, finely illustrated. Price by mail, post-paid, $4.00 less than half the price of the English edition.

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