know, Mr. Darwin has not been accused of over-colouring the picture which he has drawn. His book fittingly concludes with a paragraph which sums up in very few words the result of nearly half-a-century of observation and reflection.

When we behold a wide, turf-covered expanse, we should remember that its smoothness, on which so much of its beauty depends, is mainly due to all the inequalities having been slowly levelled by worms. It is a marvellous reflection that the whole of the superficial mould over any such expanse has passed, and will again pass, every few years, through the bodies of worms. The plough is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man’s inventions; but long before he existed, the land was, in fact, regularly ploughed and still continues to be thus ploughed by earth-worms. It would be doubly absurd to suppose that man, who has played so important a part in the history of the world, have these lowly-organized creatures.