

THE LATE CHARLES DARWIN.

A telegram in Saturday's papers announced the death of Charles Darwin, the distinguished naturalist, whose name has been for a generation past, and will be for all future ages, associated with the theory of the origin of species by natural selection—a theory which may fairly be said to have effected a complete revolution throughout the thinking world. Before the publication of Darwin's great work on the origin of species men thought that each existing species was due to a special creation; but Darwin taught us to look to the innumerable variations continually being exhibited in the forms of living creatures, under the thousand modifying influences at work in the universe, and to trace in these slight variations—so slight most of them as to be almost imperceptible—the true cause by which the great diversity in species, from the simplest to the most complicated organisms, from the worm to man, has been effected. Darwin's theory, as applied to animal life, was not altogether new, perhaps; for in France Lamarck, and in England Darwin's own grandfather had broached ideas nearly approaching to it. But to Darwin belongs truly the honor of having seized upon the hints of his predecessors only to so mature them by the discovery of clearer and more reasonable principles, and at the same time to sustain what was original in his own views by such a prodigious array of illustrative facts, that he has been universally and ungrudgingly recognised as the real author of the theory which goes by his name. The hostility with which Darwinism was at one time regarded, especially in clerical circles, was only what is always to be expected whenever the world is blessed by the appearance of a thinker who enlarges the boundaries of knowledge. He was charged with attacking the Bible, with undermining faith in the existence of God, and with all sorts of impleties; but he really made no attack upon religion or the Bible, he did not set aside the Deity, he did not touch upon the origin of life. His clerical opponents raised their outcry before they were hurt. Now that they have had time to get over their frenzy and their fears, many of them, like the late Charles Kingsley, acknowledge the compatibility of Darwinism with a firm faith in a creative and governing will. These few remarks on Darwin's scientific position and influence upon modern thought may serve to introduce the following particulars of his life and labors:—

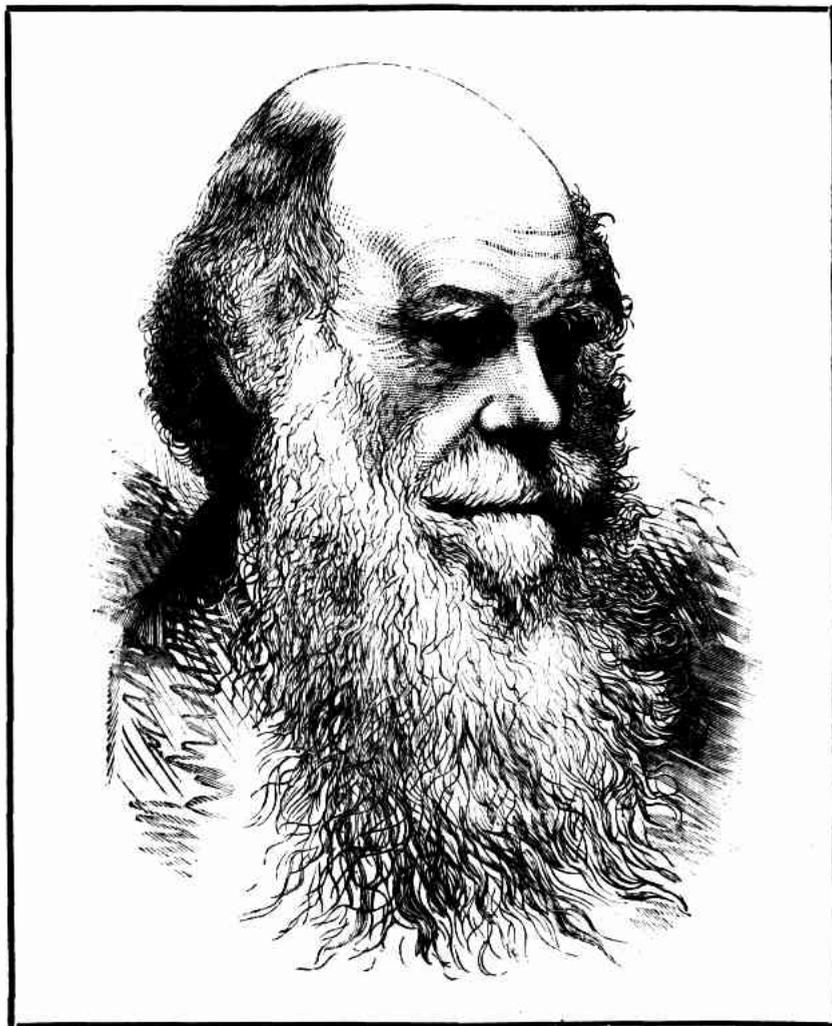
Charles Robert Darwin was born at Shrewsbury, 12th February, 1809. He came of two families which were famous in the scientific and industrial history of England, and furnishes in his own person one of the most conspicuous examples of hereditary genius. His paternal grandfather was Dr. Erasmus Darwin, a Lichfield physician, who was celebrated in his own time (the latter years of the last century) as the author of several philosophical poems, The Botanic Garden, Zoonomia, &c., which the taste of the present age rejects, but who is now considered more remarkable for having vaguely anticipated some of the scientific theories of our time. Mr. Darwin's father was Dr. Robert Waring Darwin, F.R.S., also a physician, who married a daughter of Josiah Wedgwood, the founder of the English pottery industry. He was educated at the Shrewsbury Grammar School, and two years at the University of Edinburgh, and afterwards entered Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated as B.A. in 1832 and M.A. in 1837. Mr. Darwin's scientific aptitude led Captain Fitzroy and the Lords of the Admiralty to choose him as naturalist to H.M.S. Beagle, which was despatched on a scientific and surveying expedition round the globe. The Beagle sailed 27th December, 1831, on what may be pronounced from its indirect results one of the most memorable voyages on record. Mr. Darwin, who acted as naturalist without salary, even partly paying his own expenses, was allowed the entire disposal of the scientific collections made during the voyage, which lasted for nearly five years. Besides resulting in a charming and popular account of his researches, and several important works on the structure and distribution of coral reefs and other subjects chiefly geological, it was during this voyage that Mr. Darwin was led to speculate on the great question to which he devoted the rest of his life. After many years' profound meditation, he published in 1859 his immortal work, The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, which went through many editions, was translated into every European language, and gave rise to a controversy which has lasted ever since. All Mr. Darwin's subsequent works have been more or less devoted to the establishment of his famous theory. The one which created the greatest sensation was that entitled the Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex, in which he applied the development theory to the human race. His other chief works are—The Fertilisation of Orchids, Domesticated Animals and Plants, The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals, Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants, Insectivorous Plants, &c. Only a few months ago he published a work on The Formation of Vegetable Mould by Earth Worms, which showed all his old powers of observation and generalisation, and the same clearness of style and arrangement which has characterised all his writings. It is hardly necessary

to say that Mr. Darwin received almost every honor that science could bestow. He received from the University of Cambridge the honorary degree of LL.D., and that of M.D. from the University of Leyden. The Royal Society voted him their royal medal in 1853, and the Copley medal in 1864. He was created knight of the order *Pour le Merite* by the Prussian Government. A number of attempts were made to have him elected a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences for the section of zoology, but the Conservative feelings of the French biologists opposed his election for several years in spite of his overwhelming claims to the honor, and it was not till August, 1878, that he was elected. In 1831 Mr. Darwin married his cousin, Miss Emma Wedgwood, by whom he has left a large family. Several of his sons have already shown the hereditary talent for science, and have assisted him in his late researches. One son, Mr. George Howard Darwin, already ranks among the foremost mathematicians of the day. Mr. Darwin worked hard to the last, and as we have had no intelligence of his being ill it may be presumed that his death was sudden and unexpected. He was 73 years of age.

daughter, and Mrs. Grivy's intimate friends were, one a straw moire and satin dress, the other (the younger) white Spanish blonde over white satin. The Minister of War's youthful wife (the General's Billet) wore the simplest white toilette without flower or jewel, her abundant hair forming a *torse* at the top of her head. Mlle. Duhamel, who is Mme. Wilson's great friend, wore an exquisite short costume of pale blue Merveilleux, trimmed with humming birds fastened in groups on the bodice, on the shoulders, and in the fair frizzed hair, in which there was also a pout of blue marabout.

acceptance, but it also applies to the many letters that are consequent upon an invitation being received and visits paid. Invitations which are conveyed through the medium of cards, "dinner cards" or "at home" cards, require no thought in the giving or receiving, the note of acceptance is as brief as the printed card of invitation; and to the printed card requesting the pleasure of Mrs. Blank's company to dinner, the stereotyped answer is invariably Mrs. Blank has much pleasure in accepting Mrs. Dash's kind invitation for Saturday, the 21st, or Mrs. Blank regrets that a previous engagement will prevent her having the pleasure of accepting Mrs. Dash's kind invitation for Saturday, the 21st.

whom the hostess does not stand on ceremony, as far as her own engagements are concerned; and people on these friendly terms can talk over their departure with their hostess, and consult her about it without the faintest embarrassment. The most welcome invitation is certainly the one that mentions the day of arrival and the day of departure. Thus, after the *raison d'être* of the invitation has been stated, the why and the wherefore of its being given, follows the gist of the letter: "We hope you will come to us on Wednesday, the 23rd, and remain until the 26th." It is, of course, open to a hostess to ask her visitors to prolong their stay beyond the date named if she sees reason for so doing; but this is the exception rather than the rule in the case of short visits, and guests take their departure as a matter of course on the day named in the invitation. Hostess and guests are perfectly at ease upon the subject, and guests do not feel on delicate ground with their hostess, or fear to outstay their welcome. When a visit has been paid it is polite, if not imperative, to write to the hostess, and express the pleasure that has been derived from it. Often than not, some little matter arises which necessitates a note being written apart from this; but whether or not, good feeling and good taste would dictate that some such note should be written, and, as it can always include little matters of general interest in connection with the past visit, it need neither be over ceremonious or coldly polite.



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THE HOUSEHOLD.

Paris has been very gay this Lenten season, and many more entertainments have been given recently than at the commencement of the year. The last official ball at the Elysee was a brilliant affair. The ladies of the diplomatic world were in rich low dresses, *en epaulettes*, as we say here, and the profusion of diamonds was almost unparalleled. The Baroness de Beyens (the Belgian ambassador's wife) wore a striped lilac velvet and satin dress, with long train, and low pointed bodice; the head-dress was a thick round wreath of white flowers. Mme. d'Araujo was in pink, studded with violets; square bodice, surrounded with violets. The Countess de Motke, wife of the Danish ambassador, wore a magnificent white satin dress, and a necklace of enormous emeralds set in diamonds arranged in large plaques, that completely covered her shoulders. The Queen of Spain wore a red and yellow dress; head-dress of feathers with diamonds intermixed. Her maid of honor, the Marquise d'Alta-Villa, was in mousseline de soie, covered with white lace. Mme. Grivy was in brown satin, striped on the cross, with wide bands of white satin, covered with exquisite white lace; the front of the high bodice was white satin and lace, finely plaited. The President's wife is in too delicate health to wear low dresses. One of the most remarkable toilettes was worn by Mme. Armingeau. It was pale yellow plush, with a light blue satin tablier; the bodice and paniers were plush. Mme. Violette (mother and

for trimming is also produced by machinery. Nun's veiling appears in great variety. It is brocaded in all the colors, it is embroidered in lichen green, electric blue, &c., with open work at both edges; it is covered with lace-like designs, with velvet dots, with satin figures, with plush roses, and all the old-fashioned Breton laces are copied in white embroidery on this favorite transparent white veiling. Satin sell is a novelty in woollens with a brilliant satin-like surface. In silks, stripes are again announced as coming in. There are inch-wide stripes of checked faille alternating with stripes of the same width but in contrasting colors. There are more striped silks, also in contrast. China silks are again to the fore, in such beautiful patterns that they look like hand-paintings; there are watered effects, and damask effects, and striped effects in these Chineses.

Written Invitations. Writing letters of invitation, and answering letters of invitation, often occupy far longer time in the composition than the writers would care to confess. The difficulty does not lie in an invitation itself, or in accepting or refusing it; but rather in the form in which either should be couched, the word that should be chosen, and the expression that should be used, one person is afraid of being too *expressive*, too gushing; another of being too formal or too stiff; one is fearful of saying too little, another of saying too much, and there are yet others who have not an idea what to say or how to commence a letter of this nature, and who are dissatisfied with each start they make, knowing they have not said the right thing, and not exactly seeing their way to saying it. Time, temper, and paper are often sacrificed to these attempts. This is not only the case with regard to letters of invitation and

have contemplated for their amusement. Neither do they wish to prolong their visit a day later, lest by so doing they should break in upon any engagements that she may have formed on her own account, independent of her visitors. It is also not a little awkward for guests to tell their hostess that they think of leaving on Thursday by the twenty minutes past twelve train. It might have suited the hostess very much better that her visitors should have left on the Wednesday, and in her own mind she had perhaps meant that the visit should end on that day; but, having left the invitation open, more or less, by saying "a few days," there is nothing left for her but to sacrifice her own arrangements to the convenience of her guests, without discourtesy; she could hardly suggest to them that they should leave a day earlier than the one they had named, and the visitors remain unconscious of having in any way trespassed upon the good-nature of their hostess. A "few days" is also an unsatisfactory wording of an invitation to visitors themselves; as a rule it means three or four days, but there is always an uncertainty as to whether the fourth day should be taken or not. Those who interpret "a few days" to mean three days make their plans for departure accordingly; failing this they are compelled to leave their plans open, and stay from three to five days, according as chance and circumstances may dictate. A lady will perhaps require a little addition to her wardrobe in the matter of a five days' visit over that of a three days' stay; but this is a trifling detail, although it helps to swell the list of minor inconveniences which are the result of vague invitations. There are of course exceptions to every rule, and there are people who use this kind of phrase of "Will you come to see us for a few days?" in the broad sense of the word, and to whom it is immaterial whether their guests remain three days or six days; but such an elastic invitation as this is given to a relative, or to a very intimate friend whose footing in the house is that of a relation, and with

To write a letter asking for an invitation, or to answer a letter asking for an invitation, is in either case a difficult matter to be done gracefully. When a married lady asks for an invitation to some dance, or at home, to which she herself is invited, for a young lady staying with her, either a relative or friend, the note is simple enough, and the answer is generally a card, or a written permission to bring her. Again, in the case of asking for invitations for gentlemen, if a lady is going to a ball, she can, without hesitation, ask for cards of invitation for one or two gentlemen friends of her own, mentioning the name of each in the note. In this case also the answer is generally in the affirmative, as men are always acquaintances at a ball; the awkwardness of the situation arises when a good-natured person is solicited to obtain an invitation to a smart ball for a lady and her daughters, or for the young ladies only, the latter knowing someone who would chaperone them, if they could only get an invitation. If the lady who asks for the invitation is a fashionable ball-giver, the probability is that her request will be granted; but if the contrary, the reverse will most likely be the case. Even when writing to an intimate friend, there is always a delicacy in asking for an invitation for a third person, and society would appear to become year after year, shall we say, still more selfish on this point. People are reluctant, or decline altogether to put themselves under an obligation of this nature even for those with whom they are most intimate; it may be that the number of refusals good-natured people have received from their friends when trying to render services of this description have themselves under a charge of putting themselves forward again in a similar manner; it is chilling to be told that the list is over full, or that so many people have been refused already, or that there is not a card to spare. But a few years ago a ball was not considered a success unless it was an *entree*; the popularity of the ball-giver was shown by the guests scarcely being able to find standing-room. Thus invitations were given right and left to the friends of those who asked for them. But the fashion of to-day is to stifle a crowded ballroom a "beaut garden," and to confine the invitations, with but very few exceptions, to those who are strictly on the visiting list of the ball-giver; and pretty girls may sigh in vain for an invitation to a ball given by a relative or friend of their own; not being on that particular visiting list, nothing can be done for them. Still, invitations are constantly asked for by people for their friends, and sometimes they are given and sometimes they are refused, as the case may be; but much depends upon the position of the one who solicits the favor. If the giver of an entertainment wishes to oblige the petitioner she will stretch a point to do so; if not, she will write a polite note of excuse, giving one of the reasons before mentioned. It is thoroughly understood people do not ask for invitations for themselves, or for their friends, or for their friends, and that they would not do so unless they were themselves invited. Living at a distance modifies, however, this latter rule, and friends in the country often ask for invitations for friends in town, and vice versa. Dinner invitations are, as a matter of course, not asked for; but invitations to garden parties, afternoon at homes, and afternoon teas are readily asked for and as readily given. Some are intimate enough at the houses where they visit to take a relative or friend with them to the afternoon gatherings without observing the punctiliousness of asking for an invitation; others, on less intimate terms, do not venture upon doing so. In all cases when an invitation is asked for the hostess should never neglect to send a reply, or take for granted that her friends will naturally understand that silence gives consent; for, under the circumstances, it is very possible to interpret it to signify a refusal.

RECIPES. CEMENT FOR GLASS.—A strong and invisible cement can be made by dissolving isinglass in gin, in a jar placed in boiling water. Never make more than is required, as it can only be used while hot. DIET ON ONE DAY.—A most nutritious diet on one day, or less, can be made in various ways. For example, in the morning, for breakfast, a basin of porridge made with milk, with a little meal, would only cost about a lb., as the oatmeal is only 2d. a lb., and 5 a lb. would make a very good breakfast. For a change, a breakfast might be made of mush, which consists of rough crushed wheat made into porridge and eaten with milk. A pennyworth would serve. Pearl barley for soup, costs 2d. a lb. An ounce is quite enough for a single portion. Add peas, onions, vegetables, and this, with a pennyworth of bread, will make a good dinner. A pennyworth of rice and a little milk is also good. Indian corn flour, made into a blanc-mange, and eaten with fruit or treacle, is very good. Macaroni boiled soft, with the addition of a little butter, sweet oil, and grated cheese, topped with fruit or salad, would make a nice dinner. Any of these recipes makes a good dinner. Potatoes, root beer, makes a good supper, and fruits of all kinds, when they are cheap, may be had at very little cost. ERV'S COCA.—GRATEFUL AND CONSERVING.—By a thorough knowledge of the botanical laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. ERV has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage, which saves us many heavy doctor's bills. It is the only cocoa of such excellence of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up and strengthened to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves supplied with pure blood and a properly nourished frame.—The Civil Service Gazette.—Sold only in packets labelled "ERV'S COCA." JAMES ERV and Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.—(Advs.) TRAINS-REMARKS IMPROVED, by Percy B. Shaw. This Illustrated Pamphlet on Railways, &c., published at 6d., may be had gratis from any Chemist in the World. JOHN GOSWELL and Co., London.—(Advs.)