

RECORD: Anon. 1882. [Obituary] A great scientist dead. *Union Springs Herald* (Alabama), (10 May), p. 1.

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During the last twenty years the name of Charles R. Darwin has become very familiar to the reading world as the propounder of the development theory of life; but he has distinguished himself in other paths of science, and his death, which recently occurred, will leave a deeply regretted vacancy in the ranks of scientific investigators of the mystery of animate and inanimate things.

Charles Robert Darwin was a son of the distinguished Dr. Erasmus Darwin, and was born at Shrewsbury, February 12, 1809. He studied at Edinburg[h] and at Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1831.

He accompanied the British exploring expedition around the world as naturalist, and was absent five years (1831-36), during which he visited South America, the Pacific island, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, and secured a large amount of valuable scientific material, which he gave to the world in three volumes in 1839. He was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1834, and before 1843 published his works on coral reefs, geology of volcanic islands and of South America and the zoology of the expedition, and continued writing scientific papers on various subjects.

In 1859 he published his celebrated work on the "Origin of Species," which has been translated in all European languages, and has drawn forth a vast amount of close criticism, hostile and favorable.

His doctrine of continuous development as opposed to separate created of species has been widely accepted, even by some distinguished theologians, who once opposed it. In 1871 his "Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex," appeared and created a greater sensation than his "Origin of Species." His scientific papers are very numerous, but his fame rests chiefly upon the boldness of his theories with regard to man's origin.

Darwin was overwhelmed with medals and other honors from all the scientific societies of the world. With reference to his ontological views, he is not the coryphæous of the doctrines announced. He has only enlarged upon the Greek and Oriental philosophers who held to the doctrines of evolution, and traces of his theories may be found far back in the realm of human thought. His doctrine of descent is simply stated, but not proven by any means. Ernest Hæckel has more ambitiously traced man to the sea-spirit and a primitive slime alleged to exist far down in the ocean – a position not more consoling than Darwin's ascription of dignity to the ape as man's ancestor.

To natural science Darwin has added treasures of interesting information, and his geological researches are especially valuable. His information was simply stupendous, and the mental labor he expended in his researches was vast. He had the satisfaction of knowing, before his died, that he had established a school of thinkers composed of some of the brightest minds in the scientific world.