

The Kind Darwin.

It is, perhaps, not universally known that the late Dr. Darwin was one of the gentlest and kindest-hearted men. He was always ready to give a helping hand to a poor, struggling student. Last summer an acquaintance of mine, a young man who was writing some popular scientific articles, wrote to the great naturalist, asking some questions relating to the theory of evolution. The next day the journalist received an autograph letter from Dr. Darwin, begging his acceptance of a copy of the *Origin of Species*, "which is I believe," said the eminent philosopher, "the most important of my works."

Many persons imagine that Darwin was an atheist, but that report was spread by imbeciles who never troubled to investigate his writings. Let the biologist speak for himself. "I see no good reason why the views given in this volume should shock the religious feelings of any one." It is satisfactory as showing how transient such impressions are, to remember that the greatest discovery ever made by man, namely, the law of the attraction of gravity, was also attacked by Leibnitz, "as subversive of natural, and inferentially of revealed, religion." A celebrated author and divine has written to me that "he has gradually learned to see that it is just as noble a conception of the Deity to believe that he created a few original forms capable of self-development into other and needful forms as to believe that he required a fresh act of creation to supply the voids caused by the action of his laws."