



LIFE  
OF  
CHARLES  
DARWIN

B-D 228

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## DARWIN'S HOME.

### TAKEN OVER AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

Negotiations were completed during the week-end for the taking over by the British Association in trust as a national memorial Charles Darwin's old home, Downe House, Downe, Kent, which has been bought and endowed for £15,000 by Mr. G. Buckston Browne, the Wimpole-street surgeon.

The association has applied for a Royal Charter, and until this has been granted, trustees will take charge of the

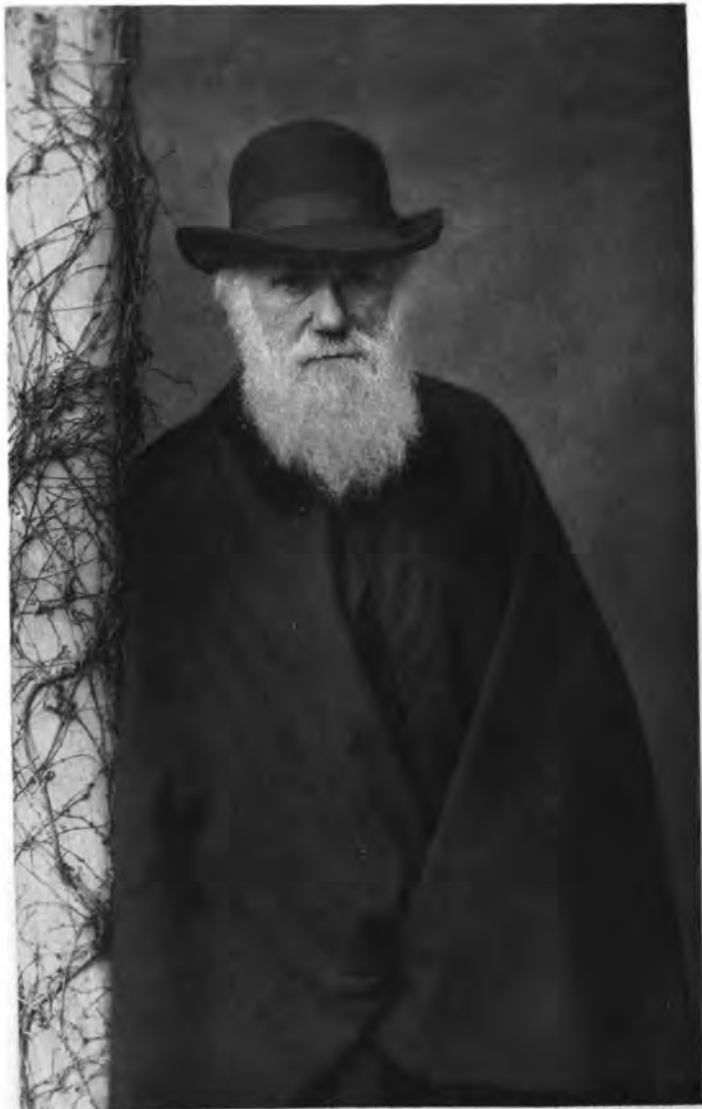


Darwin's House.

scientist's home. A difficulty of funds was overcome by the offer of Mr. A. A. Campbell-Swinton to defray the costs of the association's application.

Sir Arthur Keith, president of the British Association, said to a *Daily Mail* reporter last night:

The primary idea of the association is to preserve Downe House and grounds as it was when Darwin lived there. It is not to be a show place, however, but is to serve some useful purpose which has not yet been decided on. Members of the Darwin family have been most helpful to us, and are going to assist us in getting back there as many as possible of Darwin's things as they were when he lived there.



Ch. Darwin

# CHARLES      DARWIN:

**HIS LIFE TOLD IN AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL  
CHAPTER, AND IN A SELECTED SERIES  
OF HIS PUBLISHED LETTERS.**

EDITED BY HIS SON,  
**FRANCIS DARWIN,**

*Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.*

WITH A PORTRAIT.  
SIXTH THOUSAND IN THIS FORM.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1902.

TO DR. HOLLAND, ST. MORITZ.

18th July, 1892.

DEAR HOLLAND,

This book is associated in my mind with St. Moritz (where I worked at it), and therefore with you.

I inscribe your name on it, not only in token of my remembrance of your many acts of friendship, but also as a sign of my respect for one who lives a difficult life well.

Yours gratefully,

FRANCIS DARWIN.

“For myself I found that I was fitted for nothing so well as for the study of Truth; . . . as being gifted by nature with desire to seek, patience to doubt, fondness to meditate, slowness to assert, readiness to reconsider, carefulness to dispose and set in order; and as being a man that neither affects what is new nor admires what is old, and that hates every kind of imposture. So I thought my nature had a kind of familiarity and relationship with Truth.”—BACON. (Proem to the *Interpretatio Naturæ*.)

## PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION (1892).

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IN preparing this volume, which is practically an abbreviation of the *Life and Letters* (1887), my aim has been to retain as far as possible the personal parts of those volumes. To render this feasible, large numbers of the more purely scientific letters are omitted, or represented by the citation of a few sentences.\* In certain periods of my father's life the scientific and the personal elements run a parallel course, rising and falling together in their degree of interest. Thus the writing of the *Origin of Species*, and its publication, appeal equally to the reader who follows my father's career from interest in the man, and to the naturalist who desires to know something of this turning point in the history of Biology. This part of the story has therefore been told with nearly the full amount of available detail.

In arranging my material I have followed a roughly chronological sequence, but the character and variety of my father's researches make a strictly chronological order an impossibility. It was his habit to work more or less simultaneously at several subjects. Experimental work was often carried on as a refreshment or variety, while books entailing reasoning and the marshalling of large bodies of facts were

\* I have not thought it necessary to indicate all the omissions in the abbreviated letters.



being written. Moreover many of his researches were dropped only to be resumed after years had elapsed. Thus a chronological record of his work would be a patchwork, from which it would be difficult to disentangle the history of any given subject. The Table of Contents will show how I have tried to avoid this result. It will be seen, for instance, that after Chapter VIII a break occurs; the story turns back from 1854 to 1831 in order that the Evolutionary chapters which follow may tell a continuous story. In the same way the Botanical Work which occupied so much of my father's time during the latter part of his life is treated separately in Chapters XVI. and XVII.

With regard to Chapter IV., in which I have attempted to give an account of my father's manner of working, I may be allowed to say that I acted as his assistant during the last eight years of his life, and had therefore an opportunity of knowing something of his habits and methods.

My acknowledgments are gladly made to the publishers of the *Century Magazine*, who have courteously given me the use of one of their illustrations for the heading of Chapter IV.

FRANCIS DARWIN.

WYCHFIELD, CAMBRIDGE,  
August, 1892.

#### NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

It is pleasure to me to acknowledge the kindness of Messrs. Elliott & Fry in allowing me to reproduce the fine photograph which appears as the frontispiece to the present issue.

FRANCIS DARWIN.

WYCHFIELD, CAMBRIDGE,  
April, 1902.