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ON
THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

CHARLES DARWIN

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CHARLES DARWIN

EDITORIAL NOTE

As the standard of English literature has
 risen since the days of the Renaissance, it is
 not surprising that the best of our modern
 writers should have been the first to
 recognize the fact. Although his views
 have been generally accepted, it is
 only of modern times that Darwin has
 been the first to point out the fact
 that the most of the leading writers of
 the day, and the best of our modern
 writers, are in agreement to show that
 the highest literary composition is
 never had been entirely original.
 It was in 1837 that the subject of imitation
 in connection with evolution first appeared
 in the occupied of the world's attention, and
 the year 1859, when it was first published,
 was the year that Darwin's theory of
 evolution first appeared. In that year
 Darwin's theory of evolution first appeared
 in the world's attention, with the result
 that the world's attention was attracted
 to the subject of evolution. On tracing
 the history of the subject, it is found
 that Darwin found that it contained
 the same conclusions as which he had
 had arrived. The following were the
 which he read, together with Wallace's
 paper on the theory of evolution, on July 1, 1859.
 Darwin's theory of evolution was first
 of 1859, the list of names of those
 who had read Darwin's "Origin" as a
 subject for a paper in a subject to
 which he had given the name of evolution,
 in which he had given the name of evolution.
 Charles Robert Darwin was born on
 12, 1809, and died on 19, 1882.

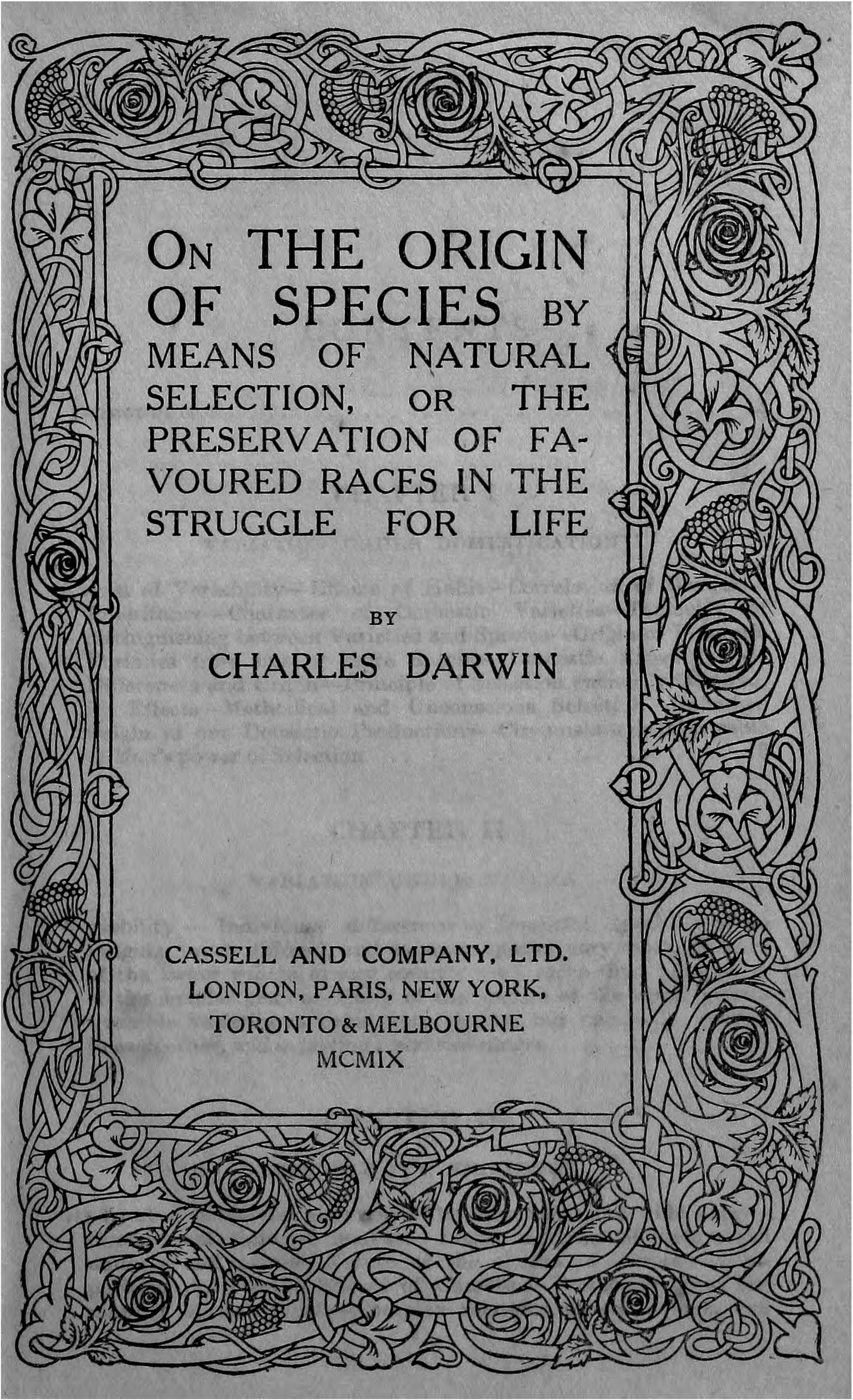


EDITOR'S NOTE

As the grandson of Erasmus Darwin, one of the first exponents of the theory of evolution, it was fitting that the full development of that theory should have been the work of Charles Darwin. Although his views and their exposition led to the greatest controversy of modern times, Darwin lived long enough to see them accepted, at least in principle, by most of the leading thinkers of his day. The fact that his remains lie in Westminster Abbey is sufficient to show that the bitterness which characterised the controversy had been entirely obliterated.

It was in 1837 that the subject of Selection in connection with evolution first systematically occupied Darwin's attention, and after five years' labour he "allowed himself to speculate" upon it, but it was not until 1858 that he publicly declared his conclusions. In that year Alfred Russel Wallace sent an essay to Darwin from the Malay Archipelago, with the request that he would present it to the Linnean Society. On reading it Darwin found that it contained practically the same conclusions at which he himself had arrived. He forthwith wrote a paper which he read, together with Wallace's, before the Society on July 1, 1858. In November, 1859, was issued *On the Origin of Species*, the first of his series of epoch-marking books. Darwin's opinion "that a man ought not to publish on a subject to which he has not given special and continuous thought" was thus fully practised by himself.

Charles Robert Darwin was born February 12, 1809, and died April 19, 1882.



ON THE ORIGIN
OF SPECIES BY
MEANS OF NATURAL
SELECTION, OR THE
PRESERVATION OF FA-
VOURED RACES IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

BY
CHARLES DARWIN

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INTRODUCTION

WHEN on board H.M.S. 'Beagle' as naturalist, I was much struck with certain facts in the distribution of the organic beings inhabiting South America, and in the geological relations of the present to the past inhabitants of that continent. These facts, as will be seen in the latter chapters of this volume, seemed to throw some light on the origin of species—that mystery of mysteries, as it has been called by one of our greatest philosophers. On my return home, it occurred to me, in 1837, that something might perhaps be made out on this question by patiently accumulating and reflecting on all sorts of facts which could possibly have any bearing on it. After five years' work I allowed myself to speculate on the subject, and drew up some short notes; these I enlarged in 1844 into a sketch of the conclusions, which then seemed to me probable: from that period to the present day I have steadily pursued the same object. I hope that I may be excused for entering on these personal details as I give them to show that I have not been hasty in coming to a decision.

My work is now nearly finished; but as it will take me two or three more years to complete it, and as my health is far from strong, I have been urged to publish this Abstract. I have more especially been induced to do this, as Mr. Wallace, who is now studying the natural history of the Malay archipelago, has arrived at almost exactly the same general conclusions that I have on the origin of species. In 1858 he sent me a memoir on this subject, with a request that I would forward it to Sir Charles Lyell, who sent it to the Linnean Society, and it is published in the third volume of the Journal of that Society. Sir C. Lyell and Dr. Hooker, who both knew of my work—the latter having

Darwin, Charles. *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection: or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*: by Charles Darwin. Cassell and Company, Ltd., 1909. Nineteenth Century Collections Online, link. [gale.com/apps/doc/BHOUBG613245134/NCCO?u=nuslib&sid=NCCO&xid=df90524c&pg=7](https://www.gale.com/apps/doc/BHOUBG613245134/NCCO?u=nuslib&sid=NCCO&xid=df90524c&pg=7). Accessed 28 Feb. 2021.