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To-day is the centenary of two giant figures in the history of last century— Abraham Lincoln and Charles Robert Darwin. They were men of distinctly dissimilar type and of widely different activities and achievements. One suppressed a military revolution against the laws and institutions of his country; the other caused a revolution in the thought of the human race.

Darwin hated publicity, the other accepted it as part of the price of leadership. Yet, withal, there was one characteristic which made these men alike. Neither would surrender his principles to another. The only master of either was the everlasting truth. Both sought the things that would stand the test of time and square themselves with eternal justice. They lived in earnest. Each had a mind that never slumbered. Their tenacity, their consecration to experience led them to view life and its problems with steady, unflinching gaze. Each lived the life of a man—useful and complete. Many men have made great marks by wrongdoing. Not so these. Lincoln saved the Union, and lifted individual liberty to a higher piano than ever it occupied before. Darwin's achievements in the domain of science created an epoch in intellectual liberty and liberalism no less profound.

Great souls are more rare than great centuries. [...]

A contributed article in another column on the life and work of Darwin directs attention to the most important aspects of his life work. Darwin had all the advantages which Lincoln lacked —comfortable surroundings, the assistance of early training, the benefits of the highest university education. After his celebrated voyage in H.M.S. Beagle Darwin settled down to the quietness and repose of his study, and from his fertile, observant mind gave to the world a series of treatises which revolutionised natural science, and had profound influences in other directions. the doctrine of evolution was first crystallised by him, and in his "Origin of Species," the result of over twenty years' patient research, he placed before Europe a work which led to a complete, far-reaching change in contemporary thought.

He died in 1882, amidst universal mourning, and though his memory is ever permanent it is revived to-day on the centenary of his birth with particular force. He was one of the greatest of Englishmen, and the service he rendered to humanity was one that has placed the world under everlasting indebtedness to him.