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ON the list of great men whose one hundredth anniversary of birth occurs this year, the name of Darwin stands out with full prominence. An English biographer closes his record of the famous scientist's life with these words;

"A marvellously patient and successful revolutionizer of thought; a noble and beloved man."

[Bettany, G. T. 1887. *Life of Charles Darwin*, p. 170, A75]

Simplicity, kindness, geniality, modesty, courage, were distinguishing traits of Darwin. Arrogance and pretense had no place in his make-up. He loved truth for truth's sake, and was willing to search for it tirelessly.

Although he held at the time high rank as geologist and biologist, it was not until the publication of "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races In the Struggle for Life," his theories began to make great stir in the world.

In the retirement and quiet of his country home in the village of Down, Kent, he had for years been making patient, laborious study of the mystery of species, and in the work put forth at the age of 50 he propounded a theory of biological evolution, what is known as the "Darwinian theory." In evidence of his generosity and modesty, attention should be called to the attitude taken by him regarding an essay written by the naturalist, Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace, in February, 1858, in which Mr. Wallace put forth the same theory as that he himself had arrived at; "the two men having independently and unknown to each other, conceived the same very ingenious theory."

Darwin was strongly inclined to withhold from publication the memoir he had ready on the subject, yield priority and all honors to Wallace; but the matter was settled by laying before the Linnean society selections from the papers of both men, Darwin's paper was read in July, 1858, his great work appeared in the fall of the following year.

As is well known, Darwin's evolutionary theories were regarded a very revolutionary, and violent attacks were made on views and author, especially by the orthodox and religious journals. Denunciation, satire and ridicule were employed to express the judgment of reviewers, but the one who had caused all the agitation serenely kept to his way, not answering attacks, but making corrections and additions to his work.

A second edition of the "Origin of Species" appeared six weeks after the first, a third came out a little more than a year after the second. By the time of the sixth edition, 1872, Darwin

was able to declare that almost every naturalist of the day admitted this great principle of evolution.

In "The Descent of Man" he came out openly with what had been implied in the "Origin of Species," belief in the evolution of man from animal ancestors; "after discussing the steps in the genealogy of man, he comes to the conclusion that from the old-world monkeys, at a remote period, proceeded man, 'the wonder and glory, of the universe.'"

His first botanical book "On the Various Contrivances by Which Orchids Are Fertilized by Insects," was brought out In 1862, and pronounced "the most masterly treatise on any branch of vegetable physiology that had ever appeared." This was followed by "The Movement and Habits of Climbing Plants," later by a work on "The Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication." "The Expression of the Emotions In Man and Animals" appeared in 1872. The work on "Insectivorous Plants" was published in 1875, this followed by "The Effect of Cross and Self Fertilization in the Vegetable Kingdom." "The Different Forms of Flowers in Plants of the Same Species," and "The Power of Movement in Plants' works of infinite value to the science of biology.

As illustration of his wonderful patience in research mention should be made of his study of earthworms, carried on for a period of 30 years, the result of this study presented to the public is his last contribution, "The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms." In this work he says: "The plow is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man's inventions; but long before he existed the land was in fact regularly plowed, and still continues to be thus plowed, by earthworms. It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as have these lowly or ganized creatures."

Darwin suffered most of his life from stomach trouble, and was not able to work continuously through the day, had to conserve his energies with great care.

Charles Robert Darwin was born at Shrewsbury, England, February 12, 1809, the same day that Abraham Lincoln was born. He was son of Dr. Robert Darwin and grandson of Erasmus Darwin, naturalist and poet. His maternal grandfather was Josiah Wedgewood, the celebrated potter. The family was in affluent circumstances, the naturalist all his life in a position to pursue his studies uninterrupted by financial worries. He early showed perhaps more than a boy's usual taste for collecting, and amid the flowers, shrubs and pets of his father's home The Mount, began the study of Nature. During a period of work at Edinburgh university he evinced much interest in zoology, later at Cambridge was strongly attracted to natural history. Cambridge associations brought him invitation to join aa naturalist the scientific expedition of H. M. S. Beagle, and in 1831 Darwin set forth on that long and fruitful voyage

which was to color and mold all his future work. The voyage lasted five years, and though persistently troubled by chronic sea-sickness, Darwin was indefatigable in work. His book, "A Naturalist's Voyage Round the World," is very widely known, His contributions on the structure and distribution of coral reefs and geological observations on volcanic Islands and on South America were of highest value.

Three years after the close of the voyage. In 1839, he married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, a union that proved very happy. There were nine children, two of whom died in childhood. [*]

In 1842, being in ill health in London, he took up residence at Down House, a delightful country place, and amid ideal surroundings pursued his scientific investigations. Of the domestic life there are many pleasant records, the genial home, the generous hospitality, the children and dogs, the devoted servants, the flowers and vines and pets. It was at Down House the end came April 19, 1882; quietly, with no violence of pain, no actual sickness, Just a gradual loss of strength, able to work a little the day before his death.

He was buried in Westminster Abbey, near Sir John Herschell and Sir Issa Newton. On the Sunday following the burial, the bishop of Carlisle, preaching at Westminster, admitted Darwin had produced a greater change in the current of thought than any other man. In Germany the Allgemeine Zeitung declared "Our century is Darwin's century."

KATHERINE POPE

* Darwin had ten children, three of them died in childhood.