

**RECORD:** Anon. 1909. Charles Darwin. *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, (27 February), p. 2.

**REVISION HISTORY:** Transcribed by Christine Chua and edited by John van Wyhe 2.2020. RN1.

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Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation" and Darwin's "Origin of Species" are the great epoch-making literary documents of the nineteenth century.

It is certainly a most remarkable coincidence that the two authors were born on the same day and the same year, and that the two documents appeared only a few years apart, the one in 1859 and the other in 1863. The one pre-eminently emphasizes the brotherhood of man; the other the common brotherhood of man and beast.

Both documents aroused intense feelings of bitterness and malice, and both came forth triumphantly from the hotly contested battlefield.

To the one we owe our common civil liberty; to the other our national view of the universe and its great Creator.

Abraham Lincoln has become the saint of his nation, the greatest of modern Americans.

Charles Darwin lies buried in Westminster Abbey, the greatest of modern Englishmen.

Both are greater than their respective nations. They are citizens "par excellence" in the vast empire of the human race.

Darwin's theory of evolution as laid down in his immortal book, "On the Origin of Species, by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle of Life," sets forth the following two theses:

1. – All higher animals and plants are descended from a few very simple primitive forms whose offspring acquired in the course of numberless generations, an increasingly higher organization, thus establishing a sort of blood relationship among all organic beings.
2. – This is proved by the struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest through natural selection.

The first proposition had been repeatedly advanced before Darwin's day, but no one had ever demonstrated its plausibility by such an overwhelming array of facts.

It was the first successful solution of the great problem of organic relationships which had agitated the best minds since the time of Aristotle. Today it is acknowledged as the only correct solution by all competent scientist.

What Kopernikas, Newton and Lyell had begun was continued and finished by Darwin.

Just as Kopernikas had transferred the center of our "world" from the earth to the sun; just as Newton had demonstrated the unity of the great forces which penetrate and affect the universe, and just as Lyell had pointed out the progressive transformation of the crust of the

earth from the earliest beginnings to modern times, so has Darwin correctly recognized the true position of all organic beings, including man, in the household of nature and has shown that they are the necessary product of the universal process of evolution conditioned by the same laws as the rest of the world.

The elder scientists erected the walls of the great building of modern science. Darwin put the roof on it.

As a working hypothesis, Darwin's theory has been of inestimable value to organic sciences. Thousands of earnest students were set to work to test the new claim; life was touched at a million new points, and out of the turmoil of search and research came our new biology, anthropology, sociology, political economy and the untold blessings of modern medicine, practically re-constructing human society and lifting upon the highest level their capacity, last, but not least, came the new freedom from old superstitions, the crude anthropomorphisms in the religion of the past, were relegated to the historic lumber attic.

A saner and much more sublime view of God and man, a clearer appreciation of Christianity and its Founder, shed their benign rays on a brighter world; a finer sense of mercy and a more rational judgment of human follies and weaknesses prevailed in our court rooms and the whole code of criminology was placed on a scientific basis.

These are some of the blessings that followed in the wake of Darwin's great deed. No one can be counted among the great modern leaders of thought who has not drunk deep at the fountain of the "Origin of Species".

It is, therefore, with the profoundest reverence and deepest gratitude that we remember today one of the saints of Westminster Abbey, the sage of Down, the unique personality and humble servant of God, the good and great Charles Darwin.

Ever memorable will be February 12th for on that day were born the world's two greatest Emancipators – Lincoln and Darwin.