

connection with this biography, it is on the man himself rather than on his scientific teaching that popular interest will now be concentrated. It is not likely to be forgotten, however, that the personal interest is almost wholly dependent on the manner in which he is teaching and on the prodigious life that he so quietly gave to human inquiry and thought. His life, apart from his work, was in no way extraordinary or even very remarkable. His is, indeed, a beautiful character; but most of us, perhaps, have an acquaintance or two so amiable, so unassuming, so confident, so patient, and, in their spheres, so magnificent as Darwin. The outward lives of great men are often uneventful, more so sometimes than even his. Not many unquestionably great men, not many whose achievements have been of the epoch-making order, have allowed in their everyday life, and to their personal acquaintances, so few striking marks of human superiority to their fellows. Johnson said about Burke that it would be impossible for a person to take shelter for a few minutes from a shower in company with him without going away saying to himself that that was a remarkable man. It does not appear that, apart from his scientific achievements as set forth in his books, Darwin bore about with him any very conspicuous marks of the intellectual Titan. In boyhood and youth he seems by those who knew him intimately to have been altogether unexpectant of genius. No one deemed that this was an incipient great man. At school he is no more distinguished himself. He left it with the reputation of "a very ordinary boy." His father, whether in thorough earnest or not, told him he could do nothing but shooting, dogs, and rat-catching, and would be a disgrace to himself and all his family. He studied two years in Edinburgh, or at any rate took in Edinburgh for the purpose of study; but in the ordinary paths of learning Darwin made no mark, and most of the instruction he underwent failed even to excite his interest. It is true that his quiet genius was already searching itself in its own way, and that his first scientific discovery was made in Edinburgh, and communicated to the Physical Society of the University. But neither then, nor afterwards at Cambridge, nor, it might almost be added, at any time of his life, was his greatness of the kind to attract notice, and to make him a social lion. Yet there was that in him which, in his Cambridge days, made men much older than he, and to outward appearance his superior, associated with him on equal terms. His greatness was not the less real that it was unobtrusive. But perhaps no recorded life justifies more remarkably than does Darwin's the definition of genius as the infinite faculty of taking pains. To a small power of observation and an acute interest in natural objects and phenomena, he added unwearied patience, and a power of persistent working in a chosen line, which have rarely been equalled. These are looked upon as commonplace attributes, but in a high degree they are, perhaps, the least common, as they are among the most essential, elements of greatness. They made Darwin great, and what Darwin achieved has revolutionised the thought and beliefs of this age of the world.

The account given by his son of Darwin's daily routine of occupation is of great interest. It will strike most readers that for a man who did so much, and whose patience and persistence in work are so praised, he did not work long at a stretch, nor did the aggregate length of his day's work amount to an extraordinary quantity. Of course his hourly suffering must be taken into account; but it may be a question if the strongest worker gains ultimately by working very long continuously. Then, again, the hours of a thinker's work are not to be measured by the time when he is visibly toiling. The mind may be working when the wearied physical frame is resting on a couch. In Darwin's day's work there were frequent relaxations, but no relinquishment of his train of thought. His mental labours were doubtless going on when he was apparently resting. Most men are sometimes aware of the results of an absent mind.

... man himself rather than on his scientific teaching that popular interest will now be concentrated. It is not likely to be forgotten, however, that the personal interest is almost wholly dependent on the manner in which he is teaching and on the prodigious life that he so quietly gave to human inquiry and thought. His life, apart from his work, was in no way extraordinary or even very remarkable. His is, indeed, a beautiful character; but most of us, perhaps, have an acquaintance or two so amiable, so unassuming, so confident, so patient, and, in their spheres, so magnificent as Darwin. The outward lives of great men are often uneventful, more so sometimes than even his. Not many unquestionably great men, not many whose achievements have been of the epoch-making order, have allowed in their everyday life, and to their personal acquaintances, so few striking marks of human superiority to their fellows. Johnson said about Burke that it would be impossible for a person to take shelter for a few minutes from a shower in company with him without going away saying to himself that that was a remarkable man. It does not appear that, apart from his scientific achievements as set forth in his books, Darwin bore about with him any very conspicuous marks of the intellectual Titan. In boyhood and youth he seems by those who knew him intimately to have been altogether unexpectant of genius. No one deemed that this was an incipient great man. At school he is no more distinguished himself. He left it with the reputation of "a very ordinary boy." His father, whether in thorough earnest or not, told him he could do nothing but shooting, dogs, and rat-catching, and would be a disgrace to himself and all his family. He studied two years in Edinburgh, or at any rate took in Edinburgh for the purpose of study; but in the ordinary paths of learning Darwin made no mark, and most of the instruction he underwent failed even to excite his interest. It is true that his quiet genius was already searching itself in its own way, and that his first scientific discovery was made in Edinburgh, and communicated to the Physical Society of the University. But neither then, nor afterwards at Cambridge, nor, it might almost be added, at any time of his life, was his greatness of the kind to attract notice, and to make him a social lion. Yet there was that in him which, in his Cambridge days, made men much older than he, and to outward appearance his superior, associated with him on equal terms. His greatness was not the less real that it was unobtrusive. But perhaps no recorded life justifies more remarkably than does Darwin's the definition of genius as the infinite faculty of taking pains. To a small power of observation and an acute interest in natural objects and phenomena, he added unwearied patience, and a power of persistent working in a chosen line, which have rarely been equalled. These are looked upon as commonplace attributes, but in a high degree they are, perhaps, the least common, as they are among the most essential, elements of greatness. They made Darwin great, and what Darwin achieved has revolutionised the thought and beliefs of this age of the world.