

A DARWIN STATUE AT OXFORD.

A statue of Charles Darwin by Mr. Hope Pinker, presented to the University of Oxford by Professor Poulton, Hope Professor of Zoology, was unveiled at the University Museum yesterday, and Sir Joseph D. Hooker delivered an address upon the occasion. The statue, which is of life-size, and somewhat dwarfs the figure of Newton, by the side of which it is placed, represents the philosopher in an attitude of meditation, his hands crossed on his breast, the features being reproduced with striking and life-like effect.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR (Dr. Fowler), in some preliminary remarks, observed that the students of the moral and mental sciences owed as great a debt to Darwin as did students of science, and were equally grateful. The historical method was, it is true, known before Darwin, but to him was due its prevalence in every department of inquiry. Professor Poulton had embodied the gratitude of every student in that University. He welcomed the presence of Professor F. Darwin, as well as of Sir Joseph Hooker, the most fitting of men to unveil the statue of a man whom he had supported with life-long sympathy in the face of unreason and hostility.

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER, who met with a hearty reception, said:—The Vice-Chancellor of your University has done me the honour of asking me to address you on this occasion of the installation of the statue of the great naturalist which now adorns your museum, and has expressed his opinion that a few personal reminiscences would be more acceptable to you from me than an *éloge* of Mr. Darwin's researches and discoveries, of which latter indeed an excellent reasoned *résumé* is well known to you as the work of your Hope professor of zoology. In accepting the task of giving personal reminiscences I am reminded of the fact that narrators of an advanced age are not only proverbially oblivious, but are too often the victims of self-deception in respect of what they think they remember, to which must be added that where a dual personification is attempted the narrator is apt to assume the more prominent position. I have thus many snares to avoid, and must hope for a lenient judgment on what follows.

EARLY FRIENDSHIP WITH DARWIN.

The fact of our having commenced our scientific careers under very similar conditions favoured the rapid growth of a bond of friendship between Mr. Darwin and myself. We both of us, immediately after leaving our respective Universities, commenced active life as naturalists under the flag of the Royal Navy; he as a volunteer eight years before me, who was an official. We both sailed round the world, collecting and observing often in the same regions, many of them at that time seldom visited and since made accessible to science by his researches—the Cape Verde Islands, St. Helena, Rio, the Cape of Good Hope, the Falkland Islands, Tierra del Fuego, Tasmania, and New Zealand. On returning to England we both enjoyed the rare advantage of the counsel and encouragement of one of the greatest leaders in science of the time—Mr., afterwards Sir Charles Lyell. It was through the father of Sir C. Lyell, the translator of the "Vita Nuova" of Dante, and a friend of my father, that I first heard of Mr. Darwin. The "Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited during the Voyage of the Beagle" was then passing through the press, and the proof sheets were being submitted to Sir C. Lyell for his information and criticisms. These were passed on to Sir Charles's father, himself a naturalist, who was permitted to lend them to me for perusal, because I was then preparing to accompany Sir James Ross as a naturalist on the Antarctic expedition (1839-42). At that particular time I was engaged upon engrossing hospital duties, and I slept with the proofs under my pillow that I might at once, on awaking, devour their contents. They impressed me profoundly, I may say despairingly, with the genius of the writer, the variety of his requirements, the keenness of his powers of observation, and the lucidity of his descriptions. To follow in his footsteps, at however great a distance, seemed to be a hopeless aspiration; nevertheless they quickened my enthusiasm in the desire to travel and observe. A copy of the complete work was a parting gift from Mr. Lyell on the eve of my leaving England, and no more instructive and inspiring work occupied the book-shelf of my narrow quarters throughout the voyage. In the interval I had been introduced to Mr. Darwin on a casual meeting in Trafalgar-square by a brother officer who had accompanied him in the Beagle to Rio, when I was impressed by his animated expression, heavy beetle brow, mellow voice, and delightfully frank and cordial greeting to his former shipmate. Shortly after the arrival of the Antarctic expedition (in 1843) I received from Mr. Darwin a long letter, warmly congratulating me on my return to my family and friends, directing my attention to the importance of correlating the flora of Fuegia with those of the Cordillera and of Europe, and inviting me to study and publish the botanical collections which he had made in the Galapago Islands, Patagonia, and Fuegia.

VISITS TO DARWIN AT DOWN.

This led to an interchange of views on the subject of geographical distribution, followed by an invitation to visit him at what he used to call his inaccessible home at Down, which was then eight or ten miles distant from the nearest railroad station. This I joyfully accepted; and then commenced that friendship which ripened rapidly into feelings of esteem and reverence for his life, works, and character that were never clouded for one instant during the 40 subsequent years of our joint lives. In the admirable biography of his father by my friend, Professor Frank Darwin, are recorded the subjects, especially botanical and geographical, which were for many years the subjects of conversations and correspondence between us. During the many visits to Down which followed, he laid before me without reserve, not only his vast stores of knowledge, but his mature and immature speculations and theories, describing how they originated, dwelling on their influence on the progress of his researches. Among these, so long ago as 1844, was his sketch of "The origin of Species," which I was the first to see of the few friends to whom he ever showed it. At that very early period of my own studies I failed to grasp its full significance, a *propos* of which I may mention that I have been reproached for this by friends who have wondered, not only that I did not assimilate it at once, but that I did not apply it to my earliest essays on the distribution of plants. My friends overlooked the fact that the communication was a confidential one of a hypothesis which its author hoped to establish as a tenable theory by an accumulation of facts in support of it, which he was engaged in collecting with a view to future publication. On the occasions of many other visits it was Mr. Darwin's practice to ask me, shortly after breakfast, to retire with him to his study for 20 minutes or so, when he brought out a long list of questions to put to me on the botanical subjects then engaging his attention. These questions were sometimes answered offhand, others required consideration, and others a protracted research in the Herbarium or in the gardens at Kew. The answers were written on slips of paper, which were deposited in bags or pockets that hung against the wall within reach of his arm, each of them a receptacle devoted to a special object of inquiry. To me this operation of "pumping," as he called it, was most instructive. I could not but feel that any information that I could give him was comparatively trivial, while what I carried away was often as much as I could stagger under. As his health fluctuated or declined, and especially during his sharper attacks of illness, these interviews became intermittent, and on such occasions he would ask me to bring my own work with me to Down, where I pursued my studies free from the distractions of Kew, and with the advantages of his counsel and aid whenever desired. These morning interviews were followed by his taking a complete rest, for they always exhausted him, often producing a buzzing noise in the head, and sometimes what he called "stars in the eyes," the latter too often the prelude of an attack of violent eczema in the head, during which he was hardly recognizable. These attacks were followed by a period of what with him was the merest approach to health, and always to activity. Shortly before lunch I used to hear his mellow voice under my window, summoning me to walk with him, first to inspect the experiments in his little planthouses, and then to take a precise number of rounds of the "sand walk," which he trudged with quick step, staff in hand, wearing a broad-brimmed straw hat and light shooting coat in summer, and a felt hat and warm cape in winter. The walk was repeated in the afternoon; on both these occasions his conversation was delightful, animated when he was well enough, never depressing however ill he might be. It turned naturally on the scenes we had witnessed in far-away regions, on anecdotes of our seafaring lives, and on the discoveries in science, then, as now, hurrying onwards and treading on one another's heels in their haste for recognition. In the evening we had books and music, of which latter Mr. Darwin was, during the first few years of our friendship, almost passionately fond. I well remember now, at the 1847 meeting of the British Association in this city, his asking me to accompany him to hear the organ at New College Chapel, and, on coming away, saying to me, "Hooker, I felt it up and down my back" (laughter); and I find in the "Life and Letters" that when a student at Cambridge, after hearing a beautiful anthem, he made use of a similar expression to a friend who had accompanied him. It is a curious fact that music should have had in after life no charm for him—that "it set him thinking too energetically at what he had been at work on instead of giving him pleasure."

AN ESTIMATE OF DARWIN'S CHARACTER.

If I were asked what traits in Mr. Darwin's character appeared to me most remarkable during the many exercises of his intellect that I was privileged to bear witness to, they would be, first, his self-control and indomitable perseverance under bodily suffering, then his ready grasp of difficult problems, and, lastly, the power of turning to account the waste observations, failures, and even the blunders of his predecessors in whatever subject of inquiry. It was this power of utilizing the vain efforts of others which in my friend Sir James Paget's opinion afforded the best evidence of Darwin's genius. Like so many men who have been great discoverers, or whose works or writings are proofs of their having intellects indicating great originality, he was wont to attribute his success to industry rather than ability. "It is dogged that does it," was an expression he often made use of. In his autobiography he says of himself, "My industry has been nearly as great as it could have been in the observation and collection of facts"; and, again, "of the complex and diversified mental qualities and conditions which determined my success as a man of science, I regarded the most important the love of science, an unbounded patience in long reflecting over many subjects—industry in observing fact, and a fair share of invention, as well as of common sense." In this introspection he has, if my judgment is correct, greatly undervalued "his invention," that is originality

or that outcome of the exercise of the imagination which is so conspicuous in every experiment he made or controlled, and in the genesis of every new fact or idea that he first brought to light. Referring to his disregard when possible of his bodily sufferings, I remember his once saying to me that his sleepless nights had their advantages, for they enabled him to forget his hours of misery when recording the movement of his beloved plants from dark to dawn and daybreak. For those other qualities of head and heart that endeared Mr. Darwin to his friends I must refer you to the "Life and Letters." There is only one upon which I would comment, it is that passage of his autobiography where he says, "I have no great quickness of apprehension or wit." Possibly the "of" and "or" are here transposed; whether or no, my impression of his conversation has left the opposite as characteristic of him. It is at any rate inconsistent with the fact that in arguing he was ever ready with repartee, as I many times experienced to my discomfort, though never to my displeasure; it was a physis so thoughtfully and kindly exhibited. And I may conclude these fragmentary records with an anecdote which goes, I think, to support my view, and which I give, if not verbally correctly, as nearly as my memory of so ancient an episode permits. I was de-ciding to him the reception at the Linnean Society, where he was unable to be present, of his now famous account of "The two forms or dimorphic condition of Primula," for which he took the common primrose as an illustration. On that occasion an enthusiastic admirer of its author got up, and in concluding his *éloge* likened British botanists who had overlooked so conspicuous and beautiful a contrivance to effect crop fertilization to Wordsworth's "Peter Bell," because:—

"A primrose on the river's brim
"A yellow primrose was to him,
"And it was nothing more."

When I told Mr. Darwin of this he roared with laughter, and, slapping his side with his hand, a rather common trick with him when excited, he said, "I would rather be the man who thought of that on the spur of the moment than have written the paper that suggested it." (Cheers.)

PROFESSOR MELDOLA contributed other reminiscences. Darwin under-estimated his own sense of humour. An interview with him was an inspiration. He noted Darwin's industry, suggestiveness, helpfulness, general scientific influence, and what might be called his moral influence in science—his magnanimity.

PROFESSOR TYLOR said that to him Darwin was not an embodiment of philosophical speculation, but a living friend and teacher. Combined with immense genius was transcendent simplicity. What did he think of himself and his work? It must have dawned upon him that he had his hand upon the lever that was to displace the centre of thought. Yet he was a prophet, and a prophet was unconscious of himself.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR congratulated Mr. Hope Pinker on his work. The statue of Darwin ranked worthily beside his statue of Hunter, the gift of the Queen, that of Sydenham, and the bust of Rolleston, the *vera effigies* of a dear and honoured friend of many in that room.

SIR J. GORST ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Sir John Gorst, M.P., took part in a public meeting held in the hall of Balliol College, Oxford, last night, for the purpose of explaining a Bill for promoting the better regulation of the home-work trades. The Master of Balliol presided, and there was a large attendance. The objects of the Bill were explained by Miss Clementina Black.

SIR JOHN GORST said of course he could not appear there as advocating the passing of a particular Bill belonging to a department of the Government with which he was not officially connected, but perhaps he might be allowed to say, on the general question, that he was very glad the women's council had taken up this subject, because it was one of very great importance at the present moment, and likely to be of still greater importance in the very near future. He believed that in many of the clothing trades the practice of giving out work in the homes of the workers was very generally on the increase, and especially in rural districts there was an immense amount of work given out from the neighbouring towns, which a few years ago was done either in the workshops or by people dwelling in the towns. But besides the increase which had taken place in home work under the existing state of things, they were threatened by scientific men with a complete revolution in their methods of manufacture. When steam was invented more than 100 years ago the effect was to concentrate the working population who had to make use of steam power into towns; and into one place, because steam was a power which could be only applied in places close to the steam engine. Scientific men told them that the motor power of the future was not to be steam, but electricity, and that electricity could be easily and cheaply distributed at a considerable distance from its origin. It was difficult to prophesy as to what would take place in economical manufactures under a new order of scientific discovery, but what was suggested was that in the not very distant future the power would be carried to the house of the workers, and that they would revert to something more like the old state of things when manufactures were carried on at the houses of the workers, and that the electric power would be diffused among the houses of the working population; and they would see work in the future being carried on, not in great factories, but in separate workshops. It was quite evident that the existence in a household of home-work of any kind afforded a very tempting opportunity for the employment of child labour. There was no doubt whatever that under present conditions in their civilization there was an enormous amount of child labour carried on, not he hoped in the majority of cases in a manner very hurtful to the children. In some cases the children were cruelly overworked and rendered, by the amount of physical toil they had to undergo totally unfit for the work of education and for deriving any benefit from the school which they were compelled by law to attend. Unfortunately, the more stringently the law was enforced, the more they effectively compelled parents to send their children to school, the more they drove the children out of the class that were kept away from school altogether into the class of those who were sent unfit to learn. The state of the child in the latter case was far worse than the state of the child in the former. It must be recollected that the parents who employed their children were a minority of the whole body. He supposed any law which was passed for the regulation of home work would greatly mitigate the danger of having children employed in this manner. No one could put a stop, and no one wished to put a stop, to the employment of children altogether. It was a question of degree. He really did not know why it should not be an offence for a parent to send a child to school who was unfit to receive instruction either from over fatigue or from under feeding. It was a moral offence, and why should it not be made a legal offence? (Cheers.) He thought it would be a very useful and beneficent addition to the laws protecting children if some enactment of that kind was passed, and then the scandal of having their school children employed during too long hours and in a cruel manner as wage-earners would be very much mitigated. (Cheers.)

FISHERY STATISTICS.

Statement of the total quantity and value of the fish returned as landed on the English and Welsh coasts from the fishing grounds during the month and five months ended May 31, 1899, compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1898:—

Total value of fish landed	1899.	Quantity.	Value.	1898.	Quantity.	Value.	1897.	Quantity.	Value.
Salmon	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Trout	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Crabs	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Shrimps	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Scallops	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Mussels	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Other shellfish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Other fish	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

Note.—The above figures are subject to correction in the annual returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

A. E. BATEMAN.

Commercial Department, Board of Trade, June 12.

A QUEEN'S GOLD MEDALLIST.—An interesting ceremony took place yesterday on board the training ship Conway in the Mersey, the Queen's gold medallist being selected. Her Majesty gives the medal to the boy who shows the finest qualities of the sailor, including cheerful submission to superiors, self-reliance and independence of character, kindness to and protection of the weak, readiness to forgive offence, desire to conciliate the differences of others, and fearless devotion to duty with unflinching truthfulness. The majority of votes was given to Cadet Jackson, who received the medal.