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AN AMERICAN TRIBUTE TO DARWIN.

American scientists are preparing to celebrate duly the centenary of Darwin's birth and the jubilee of the publication of the "Origin of Species."

Arrangements are well advanced in New York, where next February 12, (today)—the usual public holiday because it is Lincoln's birthday—will be doubly honoured at the Museum of Natural History. Darwin and his achievements in science will be the theme of addresses by the foremost exponents in America of botany, zoology, and geology to be given at a special meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences. The chief event of the proceedings will be the unveiling of a bust of Darwin, presented by the Academy to the Museum. The clay model from which the portrait is taken, is the work of Mr William Couper, the sculptor, whose series of great Americans is becoming comprehensive, while Darwin is a British worthy following up a line that began with the Jamestown pioneer, John Smith.

Mr Couper, according to his custom of collating all the known portraits of his subject, obtained all the materials he could from England. The result—as in the case of the national statue of Longfellow set up in Pennsylvania Avenue at Washington—is considered exceedingly good. The portrait of the model has been forwarded to the Darwin family, but the full effect of the great naturalist's presence as conveyed by the bust hardly receives justice from the photograph. The Wolmer bust in England is the only sculpture taken during Darwin's life. It remains to be seen whether this American tribute to Darwin, by the idealist sculptor who has best realised Benjamin Franklin's individuality in bronze, will be accepted as the nearest approach after life to a vivid representation of the head and intellect of the exponent of evolution.