

He paused a moment, and then exclaimed aloud, "I'll do it! I'll be a man!" and then walked on briskly homeward.

SYLVESTER.

(to be continued.)

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DARWINISM.

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To the question, "Whence came I?" various answers have been proposed; but apart from the explanation given in the Scriptures none have so many advocates as the Darwinian theory; natural selection, and the survival of the fittest. Mr. Darwin has laboriously collated facts bearing on this subject; and spent the greater part of his life attempting to establish his theory. He brings out many points that might be construed to support it. But Prof. Agassiz, the greatest naturalist the world has ever produced, says they can be accounted for by the Scriptural explanation far better than by the other. When Mr. Darwin comes to a difficulty he acknowledges it, and promises to dispose of it; but while multiplying words, he dexterously slips around, promising to return to it again; but he generally forgets to return, or if he does, it is only to remark that he has disposed of it in a previous chapter. In discussing this question, I do not propose to consider its religious bearings; for Mr. Darwin claims that his views are in perfect harmony with the words of Revelation; in fact, he thinks it would be ascribing greater glory to Deity, and much more honor to man, to know the first had conceived of such a development, and the second could boast of so long a line of ancestors.

Mr. Darwin assumes the truth of his hypothesis, then advances his arguments to support it. In this way, he deceives many who do not take the trouble to examine closely. A man by assuming the truth of what he wishes to prove, then bringing in what proof suits him, can make almost anything appear plausible. Mr. Darwin starts out by begging the sympathies of his readers, in the same

way that so many men do, if they have some pet theory to bring before the public. He says, "I expect to be abused, for so have been the discoverers of all great truths; and the immortal Galileo is their standing illustration. They forget the thousands of absurd things that so-called scientific men have advanced, which, when weighed in the scales of common sense, are found wanting."

Mr Darwin was untiring in his researches through the animal kingdom, for proof in support of his views. He draws the same conclusions from entirely different grounds. If he finds the female the most beautiful, it is on account of natural selection, if the male presents the finer appearance, it is on account of the survival of the fittest. Thus he goes through all the changes of nature, accounting for the losing of one organ and modifying of another. He tells us that the reason man has lost the power of moving his ears as his early progenitors did, is that as he became more civilized, he lost all fear, and did not have to use his ears in hunting food, after the manner of his ancestors. According to this theory, it is difficult to tell why our American Indians should have lost the power over their ears; or if a delicate lady were as nervous as a mule, I presume she would have as large ears, and have as much control over them as Mr. Darwin's ideal nulloish ancestor. The monkey, he says, by the constant use of its front feet, transformed them into hands; but he does not explain why it is that the same animal, with a prehensile tail which it constantly uses, does not develop that into a third hand.

Mr. Darwin examines comparative anatomy, and finding the animal in some of its parts resembling the human frame, he thinks it is conclusive evidence that they have a common origin. We might with equal propriety argue, because the earth is round, and the knob on a bed-post is round, therefore the earth was once a bed-post; or a wheel-barrow is an embryonic sewing-machine, because they both have