

who refused to be led captive by the blind dogma of a supernatural creation were compelled to assume a natural development. But even the Theory of Descent, as the specially biological part of the universal Theory of Development, had already been so clearly expressed by Lamarck, and carried out so fully by him to its most important consequences, that we must honour him as the real founder of it. Hence it is only the Theory of Selection, and not that of Descent, which may be called *Darwinism*; but this is in itself of so much importance, that its value can scarcely be over-estimated.

Darwin's merit is naturally under-estimated by all his opponents. But it is scarcely possible in this matter to point to scientific opponents who are entitled by profound biological culture to pronounce an opinion. For among all the works opposed to Darwin and the Theory of Descent yet published, with the exception of that of Agassiz, not one deserves consideration, much less refutation; all have so evidently been written either without thorough knowledge of biological facts, or without a clear philosophical understanding of the question in hand. We need not trouble ourselves at all about the attacks of theologians and other unscientific men, who really know nothing whatever of nature.

The most eminent and most determined of Darwin's scientific adversaries, and the whole theory of development, was Louis Agassiz; but the principle of his opposition in reality deserves notice only as a philosophical curiosity. In a French translation of his "Essay on Classification," which we have spoken of before, published in Paris in 1869, Agassiz has most formally announced his opposition to