

*Darwinism.* An Exposition of the Theory of Natural Selection, with some of its Applications. By ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. London: Macmillan & Co. 1889.

MR. WALLACE is an admirable writer, and from the first has been a much better exponent of the theory of Natural Selection than his great co-operator, Charles Darwin. The above work is of great interest and merits very careful consideration and treatment. We hope and intend to review it fully in the January number of this REVIEW. Meantime we will content ourselves with calling attention to the singular title which the author has given to his work, and which seems to us strangely inappropriate and misleading. The late Mr. Darwin, while assigning to Natural Selection the main agency in the origin of species, admitted other causes, such as use and disuse, sexual selection, climatic agencies, correlations of growth, &c. But he insisted in the strongest terms on its action as having produced our own race, and being enough to account for the highest human faculties. Mr. Wallace, on the other hand, while attributing to Natural Selection a far more universal and all-powerful effect in the production of species generally, and especially discrediting sexual selection, loudly proclaims its utter inability to call forth from amidst the highest beasts, the mathematical, musical and artistic faculties which now distinguish man. We have detected nothing in his work which is inconsistent with pious, Christian belief. Had Alfred Wallace, instead of Charles Darwin, been the conspicuous author of the theory of organic evolution, it would never have given rise to an outcry on the part of theologians, for he would not, as Darwin did, have merited it.

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