

Mr. Wallace's name has been associated in the minds of naturalists with the establishment of that theory which is commonly known by the name of "Darwinism," since a period even antecedent to that of the appearance of Mr. Darwin's celebrated book. It was, indeed, the reading before the Linnean Society of a paper written by Mr. Wallace far away in the island of Ternate, that caused, or at all events hastened the publication of the "Origin of Species;" and it is therefore no empty boast on the part of Mr. Wallace, that he claims to be "an independent originator" of the theory of natural selection. In a little volume now before us,³ this paper is reprinted verbatim, preceded by a still earlier contribution to this department of science, published in the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History," in September, 1855 (four years before the appearance of Mr. Darwin's book), in which the author indicates some of the leading principles of the modern theory, but limits himself chiefly to a demonstration of the law, that "every species has come into existence coincident both in space and time with a pre-existing closely allied species." Since his return to England, Mr. Wallace has devoted much of his attention to the subject of the origin of species, and has from time to time published in scientific and other journals highly interesting papers bearing upon this subject, in which the great store of facts observed by himself in his wanderings through the rich islands of the Eastern Archipelago, has often furnished him with strong arguments and brilliant illustrations. These articles, with two which are now first published, he has collected into a small volume, the first two papers, as already stated, being reprinted verbatim, whilst the others have received some alterations and additions. The longest, and certainly one of the best of these articles, is the admirable treatise on "Mimicry and other Protective Resemblances among Animals," which appeared originally in this Review in July, 1867. Another important paper is that on the Malayan Papilionidæ, as illustrative of the theory of natural selection, reprinted, but without the illustrations, from the "Transactions of the Linnean Society;" and a third article, to which we would call particular attention, is the last in the book, which treats of "Natural Selection as applied to Man," but advocates certain opinions which seem to us quite incompatible with a logical application of the theory.

³ "Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection." A Series of Essays. By Alfred Russell Wallace. Small 8vo. London: Macmillan, 1870.