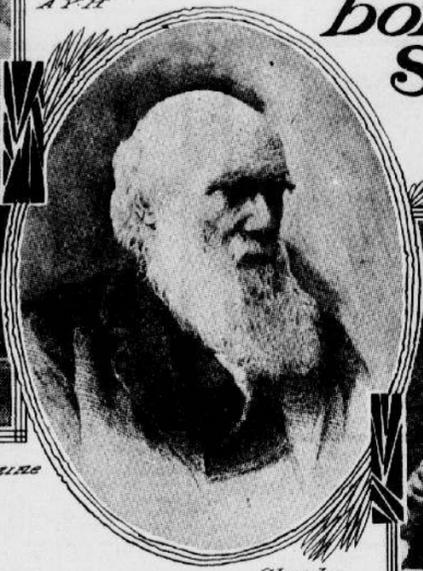


Darwin and Lincoln born the SAME DAY

BY GEORGE SEIBEL



Darwin's House at Down
Courtesy of Century Magazine



Charles Darwin



Alfred Russel Wallace



Professor Huxley and his Grandson



Ernest Haeckel in his laboratory

CHARLES DARWIN was born on the same day of the same year as Abraham Lincoln—February 12, 1809, just a hundred years ago. It is one of the most remarkable conjunctions of all history—the emancipator of a race and the liberator of thought ushered into the world together. One is almost persuaded that there must be something in astrology, as one compares the character and destiny of these two great men—skin in so many ways, in kindness of heart, infinite patience, devotion to truth, heroic courage, dauntless battle and ultimate victory!

Darwin, who had been ridiculed and denounced all the latter years of his life as the "Monkey Man," was buried in Westminster Abbey when he died. His grave, by design, is only a few feet from that of Sir Isaac Newton. The one discovered the key to inorganic matter, the other to the veiled portal of life itself.

By the time Darwin died his theory of evolution was generally accepted by scientists, and even theologians began to see that it was not in any sense inimical to revelation or destructive of religion. He was acclaimed as the greatest Englishman of the nineteenth century. A few years ago the Outlook published a symposium from eminent men in all walks of life, giving what each thought was the most important book of the nineteenth century. Nine out of ten put "The Origin of the Species" first on the list.

This book, published in 1859, electrified science. It had been a dogma that the species of animals and plants are immutable; cross-breeding might produce new varieties within a species, but one species could not be derived from another or changed into another. It was thought that when God created animals, and Adam named them in the Garden of Eden, their characters had been eternally fixed. How could an elephant be evolved from an ant or a racehorse from a tortoise?

What Darwin Proved.

Now the great achievement of Dar-

win lay in his demonstration that such had actually been the process of nature. By a thousand concurrent proofs—he relied upon facts, not eloquence—he showed that species do change and are continually changing. He showed the causes that operate to produce these changes; back of them all the great initial law of natural selection.

When a dog fancier sets about to produce a new breed of dogs, he selects its parents with the greatest care. If he is breeding for fleetness the most agile and best-winded animals are chosen. The process of selection, through several generations, will produce the fleet-footed and deep-lunged dog the fancier desires. Artificial selection, guided by human intelligence, can thus produce infinite varieties of forms. From the original jungle fowl all our known varieties of chickens were evolved. From the original blue rock pigeon came all the countless varieties—tumblers, pouters, carriers, capucins, fantails, frillbacks, and hundreds more.

What the breeder does by artificial selection, nature, as Darwin showed, does by natural selection, by the "survival of the fittest." In the "struggle for existence." Thus, by way of illustration, the giraffe has a long neck, because it feeds upon the tender foliage of the mimosa. The longest-necked individuals of each generation had the best chance to survive, because food was within easier reach, and also because from their living coming tower they could observe the approach of enemies more readily. The shorter-necked individuals of each generation were far more likely to perish in famine or to fall a prey to fierce carnivora. Thus, with each

generation the neck of the giraffe became longer and longer, until the animal we know was evolved.

Protective coloration is another important factor. Why is the polar bear white? Because, living amid snow and ice, the light-colored individuals of each generation had a better chance of stealing upon their prey unobserved and a better chance of escaping detection by their own enemies. Thus, the darker colored bears were less likely to survive; nature, selecting the Albinos, produced the snowy white polar bear. This explains why desert animals are mostly yellow like the sand, why many butterflies are like the flowers they frequent; it is a key to innumerable mysteries.

Martyrdom of a Scientist.

And for making these wonderful discoveries, proving them by laboriously seeking out thousands of bits of evidence, Darwin was more bitterly assailed than had fallen to the lot of any scientist before. Not even Galileo was thus reviled and ridiculed. Bruno, burned at the stake, had fewer detractors and foes. From cartoonists to bishops, everybody took a fling at the Monkey Man. He was called Atheist and Anti-Christ, misrepresented and maligned by mistaken defenders of orthodoxy.

But the storm blew over. The name of Darwin became a synonym of honor. The Darwinian theory became the keystone of all scientific

thought. A phalanx of great thinkers—Herbert Spencer, Thomas Henry Huxley, Ernest Haeckel and Alfred Russel Wallace—look up arms against bigotry and ignorance. Gradually the truth prevailed, as men saw it was not a question of Moses versus Darwin, of science versus religion; but simply a new and wonderful addition to man's knowledge of God's eternal law. Can a Farrar was one of the pallbearers at Darwin's funeral. James Russell Lowell, at the time the American ambassador to England, was another. All the world united in mourning and praising the man it had laughed at and derided a few years before.

With the publication of his "Life

and Letters," it also became known what a grandly simple and sweet character had marked the great scientist. His home life was ideally happy. His modesty was surpassed only by his reverence for truth. And perhaps never was patience better personified than in this invalid, who wrote nearly a score of volumes based upon personal painstaking research.

His Wonderful Patience.

Many incidents of his life are told to illustrate the perseverance and devotion of his character. He would watch for hours the movements of vine tendrils, study for years the habits of earthworms in his flower pots. A field at Down, his place of residence after returning from his five-year voyage around the world on the Beagle, was covered with a layer of chalk and permitted to lie over 20 years before he dug into it to discover what changes had been wrought by the action of earthworms. How many scientists could wait placidly for 20 years to learn the result of an experiment?

During the whole cruise of the Beagle, he suffered severely from seasickness, but kept at his work nevertheless. Admiral Stokes has told how, after perhaps an hour's application, he would say: "Old fellow, I must take the horizontal for it," that being the best relief from ship motion. He would stretch out on one side of the table for some time and resume his labors when he felt a little better. All his life long he had to combat more

serious disease in the same way. Apparently his genius was, indeed, the outcome of his "infinite capacity for taking pains." He was considered a dunce at school. His father once told him he would be "a disgrace to yourself and all your family." He was also quite glib. Once a youthful comrade told him he could get cakes without money in a certain bakery by moving his hat in a certain way. Darwin cried it, and narrowly escaped the wrath of the baker.

He was destined at first for the practice of medicine, then for the study of theology. That he became neither doctor nor preacher was due to his reading of Humboldt and the encouragement of Professor Henslow of Cambridge, who recommended him as naturalist to the commander of the Beagle expedition, who very nearly rejected him because he did not like the shape of his nose.

Five Years Around the World.

The voyage of the Beagle is told in one of the most interesting travel books ever written. The tropic life of Brazil, the treeless pampas of Argentina, the glacial wilds of Patagonia, the rock-written record of the Andes—all revealed to the young naturalist their secrets. From South America the Beagle went to the Galapagos, Polynesia, New Zealand and Australia. Everywhere this Columbus of science discovered new worlds with his microscope; the coral reefs told him the tale of their laborious building, forests of stone whispered the mysteries of an-

cient oceans. One time their ship was surrounded by a cloud of butterflies, extending as far as the eye could reach, grasshoppers came aboard 370 miles from any coast, spiders were captured 60 miles from shore, sailing on little balloons of their own silk. The great earthquake of Concepcion, in Chili, took place just a few days before Darwin reached that point.

Thus Darwin the dunce became the great naturalist. On his return to England he married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, and settled at Down, a quiet little village in Kent, where he wrote the great works that have made him famous and revolutionized the whole of human thought.

While Darwin was living here he received a letter from Alfred Russel Wallace, a young naturalist then away in the Malay Islands, with an article embodying the very theory on which Darwin had for years been laboring in secret. Darwin, with supreme unselfishness, forwarded the article to Lyell for the Linnean society, and but for his friend's intervention Wallace would now be known as the discoverer of the theory of evolution. As it was, the two men, working and thinking along independent lines, had both hit upon the same great truth at about the same time. Their names are indissolubly linked in this discovery, as the names of Huxley, Spencer and Haeckel are linked as the great champions and vindicators of the theory which today dominates every sphere of science. All the world will celebrate, on the 15th day of February, the centenary of Darwin's birth—on the same day that also gave to the world the other great emancipator and martyr, Abraham Lincoln.

BEST OF GAMBLERS ARE CHINESE

CELESTIALS ARE PARTICULARLY
ADAPTED TO GREAT AMERICAN GAME, POKER.

In the February number of The American Magazine, Lincoln Colcord tells a great story of a game of chance in which several Chinamen had a part. The stakes were as large as any that a man can play for. Without spoiling the story for those who have not read it it is possible to make an interesting view of the Chinese character.

"They have latent power . . . that is why I believe in them. They play poker well, for instance—play it like fiends. That's because it fits them. Strange to say, of all the trash we've put up to them, the game of draw poker is the only thing that fits the Chinese character at every turn. It's as if they had spent all these years just to perfect themselves for that game. It appeals to them . . . It's philosophical, it's got sense. And so they play it, inscrutable, smiling with pleasure in their hearts.

"I've spoken this way because I feel that even with you there remains an inborn prejudice against his race. He's yellow, his skin is yellow. Well, I admit it. But living as I have along the coast, I've grown into boundless respect for these yellow people that you talk about. They have the strongest racial tendencies in the world; they are the most absolutely well-knit nation that I know. Say what you will, those individual characteristics are tremendous. I mean along the line of racial power. Nothing can touch them. They throw off the weakness of our religion and civilization as instinctively as you'd throw off a man that was trying to suffocate you. They don't want 'em! They have a code of their own. By heavens! I give them credit for seeing the grave faults of our civilization . . . and, anyway, it's utterly unfit for their needs. The results are too plainly written, and they must know beyond a question that we white men haven't got anything that will last very long. Progress, progress, where has it ever led but the grave? We teach our children how deplorable it is that China has lain dormant for thousands of years; to me it's one of the wonders of the world that she's been able to, with every little religion and philosophy and vice in our category knocking at her doors.

"Let that the Caucasian all over, though, I think of me in my unfeeling conceit of it! The minute he thinks anything, or learns anything, or even dreams anything, hurry up and tell it to the next man—babble about it, disseminate it, spoil it, run it into the ground, cram it down somebody's throat who doesn't want it, but for goodness sake never keep it to himself to live and thrive by! No wonder the Chinese laugh to see us running about on such wild missions. They know so well that even in our country the charm doesn't always work. They've seen how inconsistent and irresponsible our own government and religion and ethics are. And they laugh . . . as an old man laughs at a boy."

FASHION FANCIES.

Pick Up Handkerchief—Lose an Ounce. A woman who has lost 12 pounds in three weeks, and lost it very satisfactorily from her hips, declares that

the feat was accomplished by simply dropping and picking up a handkerchief 20 times night and morning. Standing in her stocking feet and without her corsets, she drops the handkerchief directly in front of her toes and stoops to pick it up 10 times with one hand and 10 times with the other; the trick, of course, being to recover the wisp of cambric without bending the knees. The exercise is repeated 20 times again at night.

Bonbons Served en Chapeau.

In Paris now the generous-minded swain who desires to send sweets to his sweetheart need not be surprised to find the bonbon shop he set forth to patronize changed overnight to a bonnet shop. The metamorphosis

will extend only as far as the display window, for a peep beyond the engaging millinery set forth therein will disclose the tempting cases of bonbons all in their accustomed places. The smart little gold and silver bonnets in the window are in reality cunning candy receptacles, made to hold from one to five pounds of sweets, and many of these pretty bonnet bonbon boxes are bought up by the dozens for cotillon favors.

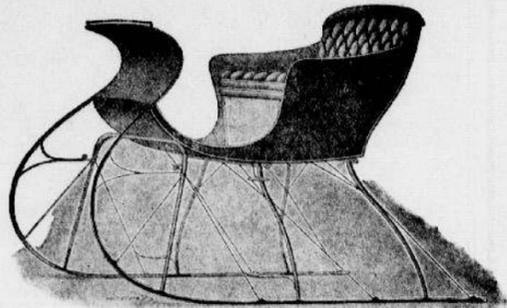
The border had has extended even to housefurnishings, and now the smart notion is to have broad strips of silk or tapestry edging the madras or fishnet window draperies. Often old portieres or couch covers of possibly passe pattern may be utilized

in this way, the tapestry designs being quite smart in border effect, while they would prove—according to the mandates of the art nouveau—hideous as solid hangings. The border had is carried even as far as decided stripes. Some very clever curtains in a brown-walled studio were of plain colored silkoines in Bayader stripe effect, the half-yard widths of silkoine crossing the curtain horizontally and being sewed together with narrow flat seams. The colors started at the bottom with a deep brown, soft red tones following, then orange, and, lastly, quite near the top of the window a sunny yellow. The curtains have been much admired by the friends of the artist who originated them.

Deschamps' Implement Store

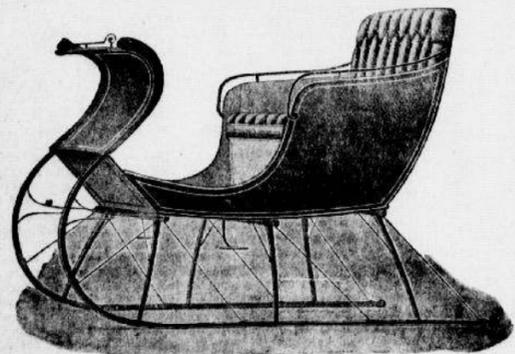
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