

rail, has been nearly that the objections supposed before that greatest in the speeches made by that gentleman looked on as a sign of greatly increased cause. It is difficult to estimate the amount of absolute increase during the financial year of the increase of revenue in expenditure. Messrs. Under-in-chief are laudably saving unnecessary expenditure, saving himself with effect, Messrs. Massey, to forward every Elphinstone, at Bombay, to work, so that there was no loss of services.

WEST-EASTERN

Meeting was held on November 30, at Mr. J. Borradaile in the presence of which has already

the report, said it referred to the operations, and he hoped to be able to tell them that the operations had come to a close he had mentioned a plan for the permanent way. The ships to take out the cargo had been tolerably fortunate at Calcutta, and they would be so far satisfactory. The assistance in their power, and nearly the whole of the land near Calcutta, owing to the deed of settlement pronounced a year, which explained on that occasion. About 100 shares paid up in full since so a call, one would be made paid in advance of calls had a call being made. They had, with the deposit of £1 3s., would be happy to answer

to a question, stated that he quite sufficient for the coal and rolling stock.

the adoption of the report, railway in India, being only the greatest objection to their views. They fully expected to see they would have but a small

The directors had kept the hands, and fully expected to see a double line, at £8500 per mile, doubt the traffic on the line the railway would pass for 20 miles more dense than in any part of the means of their undertaking to get their cargoes in five days; and require two or three ships bound for Calcutta getting their cargoes at the ending them over their railway interior of Bengal would also, Calcutta at the Mutlah, and thus line in the course of the year, no more required from a given point.

Literary Notes.

Orthodox naturalists have hard work to defend their favourite dogma of the immutability of species. Scarcely have they recovered from the commotion into which they were thrown by the author of the "Vestiges of Creation," than Mr. Darwin comes forward to disquiet them with a new Theory of Development. His book bears the somewhat discursive title of "On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection; or, the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle of Life." There is little in common between his views and those which Lamarck propounded, and which were popularised by the author of the "Vestiges." He agrees with those writers in believing in the derivation of one species from another, but differs fundamentally from them in his conception of the mode by which that process has been effected. The opinions he now holds first dawned upon him about a quarter of a century ago, during his voyage as naturalist on board the Beagle. He has been constantly engaged in maturing them since 1842, and he now finds that he does not stand alone in entertaining them, for "Mr. Wallace, who is now studying the natural history of the Malay archipelago, has arrived at almost the same general conclusions on the origin of species." A memoir on the subject by that gentleman was published last year in the third volume of the Journal of the Linnean Society, accompanied with some extracts from Mr. Darwin's manuscripts; and this circumstance, conjoined with feeble health, has induced Mr. Darwin to publish the present volume, which is an abstract, necessarily imperfect, of an elaborate work that will require two or three more years for its completion. Meanwhile it must be remembered in justice to him that his case is not yet fully set forth, and that no final decision can be pronounced upon it so long as he has had but a partial hearing. Naturalists are almost universally agreed in believing that every species of animal and plant is the result of a special creation, and that its distinguishing characters have been transmitted, without change, to every individual comprised in it, from the parent stock. The grounds on which this belief reposes are purely negative; they consist in the apparent absence of all evidence to the contrary from the records of history and geology; but this is not enough to warrant so positive a conclusion. The geological record is far more imperfect than most geologists believe, and so also is our power to interpret it with reference to the question under consideration. It is fairly allowable, therefore, to assume hypothetically that species are not immutable, and that they have not descended in right lines from independent stocks, but by successive ramifications from a few; and then, having started this hypothesis, it will be proper to inquire how far it accords or otherwise with known facts. At the very outset of this inquiry we are struck by the extraordinary amount of hereditary variation seen under domestication. But man does not actually produce variability; he only unintentionally exposes organic beings to new conditions of life, and then nature acts on the organisation and causes variability. Man, however, can and does select the variations given to him by nature, and thus accumulates them in any desired manner, inasmuch that many of the breeds produced by this process of selection have to a large extent the character of natural species, as is shown by the inextricable doubts whether very many of them are varieties or aboriginal species. On the other hand it is a fact about which there can scarcely be a shadow of doubt, that all our English breeds of pigeons have descended from the blue rock-pigeon (*Columba livia*), yet how enormous are the differences between the several breeds, and between all of them and the original stock. All these striking examples of inherited variation have been produced by long-continued selection; but is there anything in nature analogous to the principle of selection which man thus exercises for his own profit or pleasure? Mr. Darwin shows that there is. We cannot follow his arguments or illustrations, which are full of interest, whether we agree with the conclusions at which the writer arrives or not; and, having indicated the nature and course of his views, we can safely commend the book to general perusal.

... "Leaves from an Actor's Note Book,"