

Darwin's New Book.—*Expression of the Emotions.* By Charles Darwin, M. A., F. R. S., &c. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1872. 12 mo, pp. 374.

For years it has been well understood by the knowing ones that Mr. Darwin has been long engaged in studying the Expression of the Emotions. He seems to have recognized early in his peculiar line of work that this field would bear cultivation and might return fruit for him. To a man of ordinary mental calibre, or of common instinct, it would certainly have seemed an unproductive labor; and it is interesting to note, how under the treatment of this great master of biology it has been rendered tributary to his own dominant idea.

It is not for us, from a hasty reading, to attempt to criticize the conclusions at which he has arrived after so many years of patient investigation. Superficial criticisms are almost of necessity decided in their sweeping generalizations and wisely chary about details; in other words are but another illustration of the old truth, that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Hence we will be content to say that the book is at once the most popular, and yet the most profound in its suggestiveness, of any of the volumes Mr. Darwin has written. No one can read it without understanding it, nor can any read it without learning something.

His introduction of 36 pages is devoted principally to the history of his subject, and in it he gives full credit to all who have gone over the ground before him, as well as to those who have contributed facts to the present volume. Then follow fourteen chapters on "General Principles of Expression, Means of Expression in Animals, Special Expressions of Animals, Special Expressions of Man," including under this category "Suffering and weeping, low spirits, anxiety, grief, dejection, despair, joy, high spirits, love, tender feelings, devotion, reflection, meditation, temper, valiance, determination, hatred and rage, disdain, contempt, disgust, gait, pride, etc., helplessness, patience, submission and resignation, surprise, astonishment, fear, horror, self-attention, shame, disgust, modesty, blushing, concluding remarks and summary" of the previous chapters.

It is simply impossible to indicate here how these subjects have been handled, suffice it to say that he has ransacked the high-ways and by-ways of science—made good use of all information he could gain from his friends—and then extracted all he could get out of everything interesting between his own genius and the Electricity of Duchenne, and gone over light and heavy literature from the times of the Assyrians down to the last paper of Herbert Spencer; and here is the final summing up:—"We have seen that the study

of the theory of Expression confirms to a certain limited extent the conclusion that man is derived from some lower animal form, and supports the belief of the specific or sub-specific unity of the several species."

But should of scientific men, we honor him under even where we cannot accept his conclusions! If there is a man of our day who is acknowledged to rank among the leaders in science, who is perfectly honest and rightly pains-taking in his facts, that man is Mr. Darwin. It is almost impossible for any one to rise from the perusal of this book without feeling that the author meant to tell the whole truth. Hence, then, we may always accept as a fact what he advances as such, and in so far all his books are immensely instructive; even if we leave his conclusions, which never so much of sin to the multitude, out of the question.

We are not aware that Darwin claims for his teaching the full dignity of a theory. As an hypothesis, however, from a simple intellectual standpoint, it is grand in its simplicity with which all the scattered forms of life are drawn within the domain of a universal law. In this light it must long remain to the philosophic naturalist what the X is to the algebraist—a substitute for an unknown element, by the aid of which unknown terms may be determined. If not in themselves absolute truths, Mr. Darwin's writings are strings which lead us on toward that grand goal