

end of his life, unwearied in the pursuit of scientific work. The seclusion he enjoyed from the restless activity of London life, his quiet intercourse with nature, and his happy family life, helped to maintain his pleasure in and his strength for work in spite of delicate health. Undisturbed by the various engagements which in London would have wasted his strength, he was enabled to concentrate his attention upon the great problem to which his mind had been turned during his voyage in the *Beagle*. In order to show what kind of observations during the voyage principally gave rise to the fundamental idea of the Theory of Selection, and in what manner he afterwards worked it out, I shall insert here a passage from a letter which he addressed to me on the 8th of October, 1864.

*Letter from Charles Darwin to Haeckel, 8th October, 1864.*

“In South America three classes of facts were brought strongly before my mind. *Firstly*, the manner in which closely allied species replace species in going southward. *Secondly*, the close affinity of the species inhabiting the islands near South America to those proper to the continent. This struck me profoundly, especially the difference of the species in the adjoining islets in the Galapagos Archipelago. *Thirdly*, the relation of the living Edentata and Rodentia to the extinct species. I shall never forget my astonishment when I dug out a gigantic piece of armour like that of the living armadillo.

“Reflecting on these facts, and collecting analogous ones, it seemed to me probable that allied species were descended from a common parent. But for some years I could not conceive how each form became so excellently adapted to