

certain tropical diseases. On this occasion he remarks that all animals have a tendency to change up to a certain degree, and that farmers, by availing themselves of this tendency, and also by selection, improve their domestic animals; and then he adds that what is done in this latter case "by art, seems to be done with equal efficiency, though more slowly, by nature, in the formation of varieties of mankind fitted for the country which they inhabit. Of the accidental varieties of man which would occur among the first few and scattered inhabitants of the middle regions of Africa, some race would be better fitted than others to withstand the diseases of the country. This race would consequently multiply, while the others would decrease; not only from their inability to sustain the attacks of disease, but from their incapacity of contending with their more vigorous neighbours. The colour of this more vigorous race, I take for granted, from what has already been said, would be dark. But, the same disposition to form varieties still existing, a darker and ever darker race would in the course of time occur; and as the darkest would be best fitted for the climate, it would at length become the most prevalent, if not the only race, in the particular country in which it had originated."

Although Dr. Wells clearly expresses and recognizes the principle of natural selection, yet it is applied by him only to the very limited problem of the origin of human races, and not at all to that of the origin of animal and vegetable species. Darwin's great merit in having independently developed the Theory of Selection, and having brought it to complete and well-merited recognition, is as little affected by this earlier and long-forgotten remark of Wells,