

dominates in the struggle, the specific form either remains constant or changes into a new species. The degree of constancy of form in the different species of animals and plants, which obtains at any moment, is simply the necessary result of the momentary predominance which either of these two formative powers (or physiological activities) has acquired over the other.

If we now return to the consideration of the process of selection or choice, the outlines of which we have already examined, we shall be in a position to see clearly and distinctly that both artificial and natural selection rest solely upon the interaction of these two formative tendencies. If we carefully watch the proceedings of an artificial selector—a farmer or a gardener—we find that only these two constructive forces are used by him for the production of new forms. The whole art of artificial selection rests solely upon a thoughtful and wise application of the laws of Inheritance and Adaptation, and upon their being applied and regulated in a skilful and systematic manner. Here the will of man constitutes the selecting force.

The case of natural selection is quite similar, for it also employs merely these two organic constructive forces, the physiological functions of Adaptation and Heredity, in order to produce the different species. But the selecting principle or force, which in *artificial* selection is represented by the conscious *will of man* acting for a definite purpose, consists in *natural* selection of the unconscious *struggle for existence* acting without a definite plan. What we mean by “struggle for existence” has already been explained in the seventh chapter. It is the recognition of its exceeding importance which constitutes one of the greatest of Darwin’s