

they belong, therefore, more to the history of philosophical than to that of scientific thought. There is, however, one instance of which it is necessary to take a passing notice.

24.  
The  
'Vestiges.'

In the year 1844 a book appeared which in nine years, up to 1853, ran through nine large editions. It was anonymous,<sup>1</sup> and bore the title 'Vestiges of the

transmissible to the offspring." 4. That "indefinite divergence" from the original type is "prevented." 5. That "the intermixture of distinct species is guarded against by the aversion of the individuals composing them to sexual union." 6. That "it appears that species have a real existence in nature, and that each was endowed, at the time of its creation, with the attributes and organisation by which it is now distinguished." The reviewers of Lyell's work—such as Whewell ('Quarterly,' vol. xlvii. p. 113)—treat Lamarck with much less gravity than Lyell himself, who evidently had studied the 'Philosophie Zoologique' carefully and with much interest; which, I am afraid, was not the case with many others who then and long after only quoted certain extreme passages and examples which had been spread in general literature in a garbled fashion. Contrast in this respect what Lyell wrote to G. Mantell in 1827 ('Life of Lyell,' vol. i. p. 168), where he admits having "devoured Lamarck with pleasure," and though disagreeing with him, admits that it is impossible to say "what changes species may really undergo," with the remarks of Charles Darwin—otherwise so careful and moderate—when he talks of "Lamarck nonsense" ('Darwin's Life and Letters,' p. 23) and his "veritable rubbish" (p. 29), and attributes to him statements which such a careful student of his writings as

Prof. Packard had been unable to trace (see his work on 'Lamarck,' 1901, p. 74). One would be inclined to agree with Darwin that such absurdities have done the subject more harm than good, but to attribute them rather to garbled paraphrases and quotations by Lamarck's critics (see Darwin to Hooker, 1853, 'Life,' vol. ii. p. 39) than to Lamarck himself. More than thirty years after the publication of the 'Principles,' when, in consequence of the appearance of the 'Origin of Species,' the subject of Transmutation was much discussed, Lyell wrote to Darwin that he had re-read Lamarck, and admitted that, "remembering when his book was written, he felt he had done him [Lamarck] injustice" ('Life, &c., of Sir Charles Lyell,' 1881, vol. ii. p. 365). In the same letter Lyell states that forty years ago (1823) Prévost, a pupil of Cuvier's, told him his conviction "that Cuvier thought species not real, but that science could not advance without assuming that they were so."

<sup>1</sup> The anonymity of the work was long maintained, and though, after various guesses as to the authorship—attributing it, *e.g.*, to Lyell or Darwin—had been made, it was generally believed that Robert Chambers (1802-1871) was the author, this was not publicly admitted till Alex. Ireland—the last survivor of the few friends to whom the secret was committed—published (1884) the twelfth edition of the book,