

country, not only in the region of scientific, but quite as much in that of philosophical, thought.

29.  
Triumph of  
the genetic  
view.

So far as the purely scientific aspect is concerned, the 'Origin of Species' firmly established the genetic or developmental in the place of the morphological view, or the earlier purely systematic and classificatory treatment of the objects and processes of nature; and it is interesting to note how the period from the publication of the 'Vestiges' to that of the 'Origin of Species,' the fifteen years from 1844 to 1859, was also the period during which Humboldt published his 'Kosmos'—the *résumé* of the labours of a lifetime. This was the consummation of that aspect of nature which I have termed the purely morphological one, and which in his mind was expanded to the panoramic view: the attempt to unroll before his readers a picture or panorama of the whole world as the scientific mind was then able to see it. Nature appeared mapped out in bold and characteristic lines and colours, without allowing the questions of past history or future development,—the origin, life, and fate of the cosmos,—to present itself at all. The fact that this latter question was professedly excluded as foreign, or premature, is probably the reason why the book attracted so little attention in this country, where a new manner of treating all the problems of natural science was being inaugurated; but it is interesting to learn from Darwin that his whole life was influenced<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See 'Life and Letters of Charles Darwin,' vol. i. p. 25: "During my last year at Cambridge I read with care and profound interest Humboldt's 'Personal Narrative.' This work, and Sir J. Herschel's 'Intro-

duction to the Study of Natural Philosophy,' stirred up in me a burning zeal to add even the most humble contribution to the noble structure of natural science. No one or a dozen other books influ-