

and his studies directed by reading and re-reading Humboldt's 'Personal Narrative.' The 'Kosmos' of Humboldt closed the older, the 'Origin of Species' of Darwin opened the new, epoch of natural science: the former was retrospective, the latter prospective. Both works owe their origin to a visit to the same portion of the globe, to a study of the subtropical scenery and life of South America — Humboldt having visited the inland, Darwin specially the maritime and island scenery.¹ It is further of interest to note how the

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enced me nearly so much as these two. I copied out from Humboldt long passages about Teneriffe," &c. Also vol. i. p. 337: "I never forget that my whole course of life is due to having read and re-read as a youth Humboldt's 'Personal Narrative.'"

¹ Besides Darwin and Lyell, to whom, of British naturalists as representing the genetic view in the middle of the century, I have so far confined my remarks, there were at that time two other eminent men working in the same direction. The views of these two were likewise much influenced by travel and by the study of plant and animal life in distant countries. I refer to Sir J. D. Hooker and Mr A. Russel Wallace. The important part which these men played in the gradual conception and birth of the ideas which were for the first time comprehensively set forth in the 'Origin of Species' is lucidly and impartially told by Huxley in the well-known chapter which he contributed to the second volume of the 'Life and Letters of Charles Darwin,' edited by his son, Professor Francis Darwin, in 1887. Few episodes in the history of thought have been treated with greater mastery. Few botanists have

possessed a greater personal knowledge of different and greatly varying floras than Sir J. D. Hooker, who succeeded to the position and labours of his father, Sir W. J. Hooker, at Kew. After having accompanied Captain Ross on his Antarctic expedition for the discovery of the South magnetic pole, he became best known by his 'Himalayan Journal' (1854). It was in constant correspondence and intercourse with Hooker that Darwin, from 1844 to 1859, wrote his first great work. The important original contributions of Mr Wallace are well known, and the story how his paper, "On the Tendency of Varieties to depart indefinitely from the Original Type," reached Darwin when he had got half through the larger work which he was then writing, how this coincidence hastened the publication of the two papers by Wallace and Darwin, which "contained exactly the same theory," in the 'Journal of the Linnean Society' (Zoology, vol. iii. p. 45), has been told by Lyell and Hooker (*ibid.*, letter to the secretary), and by Darwin himself (Autobiography, in 'Life,' &c., vol. i. p. 84). No mystery lies upon the history of the first enunciation of the doctrine of natural