

same year which witnessed the appearance of the work of Darwin was also that of the invention of Spectrum Analysis, that great instrument by which astronomy, doomed by the purely mathematical treatment to become simply "une question d'analyse," was once more enrolled among the natural sciences; the means being supplied for that natural history of the heavens which is now one of the most progressive and fascinating branches of science. The reader who has realised from the foregoing exposition how the genetic view of nature was anticipated by earlier writers on cosmology, such as Leibniz and Laplace, how it obtained in geology through Hutton and Lyell, how it became dominant in embryology through von Baer, and how the morphological treatment broke down through the recognition of the variability of species and the impossibility of defining clearly the landmarks of zoological and botanical classification, will readily understand the importance and timeliness¹ of Darwin's work, which proposed to deal

selection, no national or personal jealousies obscure the issues which were then at stake; neither of the two great naturalists has ever put forward any complaint that the other has not fairly and generously dealt with his own merit. Since the death of Darwin Mr Wallace has written the well-known book which, under the title of 'Darwinism' (London, 1889), gave to many readers the first comprehensive account of the celebrated theory which is generously identified with the sole name of only one of its original propounders.

¹ Both propounders of the theory of natural selection have in their subsequent writings referred to those who prepared the way be-

fore them, and Mr Wallace has taken special pains to explain why a doctrine which was so well prepared, and even anticipated, had not been more distinctly accepted before the appearance of the 'Origin of Species' ("Darwinism," chap. i.): "Notwithstanding the vast knowledge and ingenious reasoning of Lamarck, and the more general exposition of the subject by the author of the 'Vestiges of Creation,' the first step had not been taken towards a satisfactory explanation of the derivation of any one species from any other. Such eminent naturalists as Geoffroy St Hilaire, Dean Herbert, Professor Grant, von Buch, and some others, had expressed their belief that species