http://geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1906-Merz-HistEurThot/README.htm

comparisons refer to the law of "natural selection," which is placed in parallel with Newton's law of "universal gravity." Now, although "natural selection," the automatic process which ensures the survival of the fittest and the extinction of the less adaptive members in a crowd of living beings, is a definite formula which allows us to understand and clearly define one of the many factors which are at work in the development, in the genesis and growth, of living beings, it is only one. It is not a prime mover or force, like the force of gravity; it is a check upon the over-luxuriance of other existing forces of production and development. These are only very imperfectly known; whereas Newton not only discovered the "law of gravitation," but also the correct expression for the general and all-pervading laws of motion which obtain, even where gravitation or any similar force ceases to be a valid conception. Again, Newton's greatness does not rest on the "law of gravitation" alone, but much more on the general foundations of dynamics and natural philosophy which he has laid. So also Darwin's greatness is not limited to the formula of "natural selection," but depends on the novel conception which he has introduced into the study of nature on the large scale and as a whole, viewing it as a scene of conflict and ceaseless development. From this time dates the study of nature as a whole[1] in contradistinction to that of natural

this I shall treat in the next chapter. See also the various writings of Hans Driesch, such as 'Analytische Theorie der organischen Entwicklung' (Leipzig, 1894); 'Die Biologie als selbständige Grundwissenschaft (1893), especially p. 7 of the latter.

[1] Though this was prepared, as Darwin himself points out, by A. von Humboldt.