Darwin

Two hundred years after his birth and 150 years after the publication of ‘On the Origin of Species’, Charles Darwin and his theories are still the focus of worldwide attention. This series offers not only works by Darwin, but also the writings of his mentors in Cambridge and elsewhere, and a survey of the impassioned scientific, philosophical and theological debates sparked by his ‘dangerous idea’.

The Origin of Species

This sixth edition of The Origin of Species was published in 1876. It is the last edition on which Darwin himself worked before his death in 1882, and offers a useful complement to the 2009 scholarly edition, edited by Jim Endersby and published by Cambridge University Press in Darwin’s bicentennial year. The sixth edition contains a ‘Historical sketch’ in which Darwin reviews the many works by eminent European and American scientists – beginning with Lamarck in 1801 – in which ideas of evolutionary species change and of natural selection were touched on but not developed. This edition, like all from the second onwards, contains the words ‘by the Creator’, controversially added to the famous last sentence in the book: ‘There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved.’
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By Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life

Charles Darwin
THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES.
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_WHEWELL_: _Bridgewater Treatise_

"The only distinct meaning of the word 'natural' is _stated, fixed, or settled_; since what is natural as much requires and presupposes an intelligent agent to render it so, _i.e._, to effect it continually or at stated times, as what is supernatural or miraculous does to effect it for once."

_EUCLER_ : _Analogy of Revealed Religion_.

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_Sixth Edition, Jan. 1872._
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