

**OUR BLOOD  
RELATIONS; OR, THE  
DARWINIAN THEORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649397389

Our blood relations; or, The Darwinian theory by Charles William Grant

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Cover @ 2017

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# OUR BLOOD RELATIONS;

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## DARWINIAN THEORY.

"So grossly ignorant are many of us of our blood relations."—

*Review of DESCENT OF MAN, 'Times,' April 23d, 1871.*



ASCIDI, LARVÆ. "CREATION OF THE ANCESTRY," Cuvier.

By Colonel <sup>C. W.</sup> Grant, author of "John  
Justified," residing at Pennhill, Weston,  
near Bath. [1871]

"Man's most ancient progenitor apparently consisted of a group  
of marine animals resembling the larvæ of existing Ascidiæ."—  
DESCENT OF MAN.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co.

BATH: R. E. PEACH, 8, BRIDGE STREET.

1872.

BATH :

31, X, PRACH, BRIDGE STREET.



## PREFACE.

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WE are perfectly aware how difficult it is to treat the doctrine of the "Darwinian theory," as it ought to be treated, in the very limited space of such a work as this; but the issue at stake is so momentous, the result of a general adherence to the principles laid down, and the conclusions arrived at in the 'Descent of Man' would be so ruinous to our religious and social feelings and institutions, that the Author is induced to hope that an exposition of them in a popular style, and in a small compass, may be of some use, if not, as successfully combating the peculiar views expounded by Mr. Darwin, at least as tending to draw renewed attention to his works, and to the necessity of unhesitatingly exposing the fallacy, even in a scientific point of view, of conclusions which contemptuously ignore all revealed religion, and all faith in our Bible as the inspired Word of God.

If Mr. Darwin's book were an ephemeral publication, which, with the effect it at first produced, would soon pass away and be replaced by some other topic of literary interest, it might be better so to allow it to sink into oblivion. But as the work of one of the most distinguished naturalists of the age, as containing

views highly in accordance with a growing spirit of irrational philosophy and materialism, it has become and will remain as a standard book in our scientific literature, and one calculated to effect more harm than we dare think of, if its apparently unintentional but poisonous influences are not neutralised by some antidote.

In the "Introduction" will be found a brief abstract of the Darwinian theory, with the inevitable consequences to which it leads; and the "Notes" supply fuller explanation on various points than could be given in the text, together with references to the pages of the 'Descent of Man,' from which the extracts are taken, and to the opinions of other authors and writers. The writer of the following pages does not wish to assert or even to imply that Mr. Darwin, by his publication of the 'Descent of Man' had any avowed or unexpressed intention of making an attack upon what is by some called religion; but wishes to state plainly and unhesitatingly that, if the conclusions arrived at in that book are admitted, particularly as regards the creation of man, we must not only renounce all belief in the Scripture narrative of Creation, but must also give up our belief in the doctrine of original sin and of the Atonement, of the Sabbath as a Divine ordinance, of our duty to our God, our faith as Christians, and, in fact, fall back to the state, or even to a lower state, of morality and religious belief than in the days of the heathen philosophers.

*January, 1872.*



## INTRODUCTION.

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WITH a view of assisting those who have neither leisure nor inclination to wade through Mr. Darwin's books, and yet who ought to know the results that would follow the general acceptance of the conclusions at which he has arrived, we will endeavour to give a brief abstract of what is called the "Darwinian Theory" as expounded in his 'Origin of Species' and the 'Descent of Man.'

This theory mainly depends on the Doctrine of Evolution, or the gradual development during an unlimited period of time of animal life from one species into a different species, or different group, until, by insensible graduation, a simple monad may be ultimately evolved into *Man*.

The two principal agents employed by Mr. Darwin to produce such wonderful results are "Natural Selection" and "Sexual Selection," which are thus defined by him:—"Sexual selection depends on the success of certain individuals over others of the same sex in relation to the propagation of the species; whilst natural selection depends upon the success of both sexes, at all ages, in relation to the general conditions of life."—*Descent of Man*, vol. ii. p. 398.

The results of the action of these agents are thus described in the 'Descent of Man.' There now exists a class or sub-order of marine Molluscs called Ascidians, which are "invertebrate, hermaphrodite, marine creatures permanently attached to a support. They hardly

appear like animals, and consist of a simple, tough, leathery sack, with two small projecting orifices; "their larvæ somewhat resemble tadpoles in shape, and have the power of swimming freely about." Some foreign naturalists have recently discovered, or fancy they have discovered, that "the larvæ of Ascidiæ are related to the Vertebrata, in their manner of development, in the relative positions of the nervous system, and in possessing a structure closely like the *chorda dorsalis* of vertebrate animals." By this "discovery of extraordinary interest," "we have," says Mr. Darwin, "at last gained a clue to the source whence the Vertebrata have been derived. *We should thus be justified in believing that at an extremely remote period a group of animals existed, resembling in many respects the larvæ of our present Ascidiæ, which diverged into two great branches—the one retrograding in development and producing the present class of Ascidiæ, the other rising to the crown and summit of the animal kingdom*" (that is to Man) "by giving birth to the Vertebrata." —*Descent of Man*, vol. i. pp. 205-206.

Having thus by an extraordinary effort of imagination found the key to the kingdom of the Vertebrata, the clue is eagerly followed up, and is thus easily disposed of:—"The most ancient progenitors in the kingdom of the Vertebrata, at which we are able to obtain an *obscure glance, apparently* consisted of a class of marine animals, resembling the larvæ of existing Ascidiæ. These animals *probably* gave rise to a group of fishes. . . . From such fish a *very small advance would* carry us on to the amphibians." . . . "Birds and reptiles were more intimately connected together." . . . "*But no one can at present say* by what line of descent the three higher and related classes, namely, mammals, birds, and reptiles, were derived

from either of the other two lower vertebrate classes, namely, amphibians and fishes. In the class of mammals the steps *are not difficult* to conceive which led from the lowest in the class up to the Old and New World monkeys—and from the latter, at a remote period, Man, the wonder and glory of the universe, proceeded.”—*Descent of Man*, vol. i. pp. 212-213.

“Thus,” says Mr. Darwin, “we have given to Man a pedigree of prodigious length, but not, it may be said, of noble quality.”—*Ibid.*

And to prevent any possible misconception of the results of this mode of succession, Mr. Darwin says:—“The belief that animals so distinct as a monkey or elephant and a humming-bird, a snake, frog, and fish, &c., could all have sprung from the *same parents*, will appear monstrous to those who have not attended to the recent progress of natural history. For this belief implies the former *existence* of links closely binding together all these forms, now so utterly unlike.”—Vol. i. p. 203. Monstrous indeed—if the progress in science had not been equalled by the progress in the credulity of some scientific men. The means by which these extraordinary results have been obtained are, as above mentioned, by the agencies of “Natural selection” and “Sexual selection.” “Natural selection” is called the “survival of the fittest,” that is, that all animals increase in number more rapidly than their means of subsistence increases; that many must die before the usual term of animal life, either by epidemic disease, by famine or drought, by the ravages of other animals, such as the destruction of herbivorous animals by the carnivora, and by fighting with those of their own species, &c. In all these cases the weakest, the least active, the infirm in any way, would be the first to succumb: the strong, the active, the most healthy