

# **DARWINISM AND OTHER ESSAYS**

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Darwinism and Other Essays by John Fiske

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**JOHN FISKE**

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OTHER ESSAYS**



# DARWINISM

*AND OTHER ESSAYS.*

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BY

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"Qui itaque suos affectus et appetitus ex solo libertatis amore moderari studet, is, quantum potest, nititur, virtutes earumque causas noscere, et animum gaudio, quod ex earum vera cognitione oritur, implere."—SPINOZA.

London and New York:  
MACMILLAN AND CO.

1879.

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TO  
THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY,  
IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
THREE HAPPY DAYS AT PETERSHAM,  
AMONG THE BLUE HILLS OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
AND OF MANY  
PLEASANT FIRESIDE CHATS IN LONDON,  
*I* dedicate  
THIS LITTLE BOOK.

LONDON, *YORK* 30, 1879.

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1881



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# DARWINISM

## AND OTHER ESSAYS.

### I.

#### DARWINISM VERIFIED.

IT is not often that the propounder of a new and startling scientific theory has lived to see his daring innovations accepted by the scientific world in general. Harvey's great discovery of the circulation of the blood was scoffed at for nearly a whole generation ; and Newton's law of gravitation, though proved by the strictest mathematical proof, received from many eminent men but a slow and grudging acquiescence. Even Leibnitz, who as a mathematician hardly inferior to Newton himself might have been expected to be convinced on simple inspection of the theory, was prevented from accepting it by the theological objection that it appeared to substitute the action of a