DR. ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE TELLS HIS LIFE STORY.

The career of Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, who discovered the theory of Natural Selection simultaneously with Darwin, is naturally the subject of great popular interest. In "My Life: A Record of Events and Opinions" (Chapman and Hall, 2 vols.), a distinguished man of science tells us all about himself in the simplest and most unaffected manner possible. Born at Usk, in Monmouthshire, in 1823, he "was abashed by the earnestness of my remonstrance regarding the lendings," according to the author. He mentions as an example of the prosperity of the business, a case of Mr. Mytton, who had been familiar for twenty years as a professional man with whom he had dealings. As soon as he was out of prison—his solicitor had come to his rescue and paid the debt—Mytton took his creditor by the arm and walked through the town so that the affair might not in any way injure his professional reputation. The author comments on this act of rare generosity on the part of a man who was considered both by his masters and by his father "a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard in intellect." As for the author's own opinion of Darwin, it can best be expressed in the words of Huxley, which he quotes with unqualified approval:

One could not converse with Darwin without being reminded of Socrates. There was the same depth of thought behind every word; the same ready humour; the same desire to find someone wiser than himself; the same belief in the sovereignty of reason; the same ready humour; the same sympathy in all the ways and works of men. But instead of the same philosophy, the same ethical bent of mind, the same self-consciousness, the same demand for the impossibility of our speculative speculations and theories, which are as the substance of which their speculations are but as anticipatory shadows.

Lowell's Latin.

A good deal of space is given in this book to his lecturing tours in the United States and Canada. On one occasion, when dining with the Naturalists' Club in Boston, he found himself sitting next to Lowell, and was rather awed, as he knew little of the distinguished American writer's works and writings, and imagined that Lowell had never heard of him at all. "The condition of things," he tells us, "was not improved by his quoting some Latin author to illustrate some remark addressed to me, evidently to see if I was a scholar. I was so taken aback that instead of saying I had forgotten the Latin, I simply said I had no knowledge of the language, and that my special interests were in Nature, I merely replied vaguely to his observations. I quote this little incident because it ill illustrates of the profound humility which runs all through this book. Another distinguished man who is sketched in the autobiography is the French geographer, Elisee Reclus.

"He was," says the author, "a rather small and very delicate-looking man, highly intellectual, but very quiet in appearance and manner." He really did not know that it was he with whose name he had been familiar for twenty years as the greatest of geographers, thinking it must have been his father or elder brother; and I was surprised when, on asking him, he said that it was himself. Spiritualism.

Dr. Wallace's conversion to Spiritualism was not approved of by his scientific friends, and "The Scientific Aspect of the Supernatural" was the object of sharp criticism. For example, we find Professor Tyndall's autobiography with a letter to the author that it was he who had reproached Thackeray for allowing a certain article about "Home" to appear. After a few reminiscences concerning the "Cromwell" and "Petty Thackeray," continues Professor Tyndall, "was abashed by the earnestness of my remonstrance regarding the lendings." The author comments on the fact that, like Darwin, St. George Mivart was always "a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard in intellect." As for the author's own opinion of Darwin, it can best be expressed in the words of Huxley, which he quotes with unqualified approval:

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