also to put the truth before his fellows with a
demonstrative evidence that another man
could not bring out; and along with this
there is a moral sense, childlike in its can­
dor, manly in its vigor, which will not allow
him to approve anything illogical or wrong,
though it be upon his own side of a question
which affix the depths of his moral nature.
One cannot help entertaining a great esteem
for him, even when he is most in earnest and
at his tens.

A poor reviewer needs to summon all his
professional omniscience to comment upon
fifty-two discussions with such a range as
these; but he can plead the stern exigencies
of space as a reason for only noticing a few
of them. The seventh essay gives a remark­
lfully luminous and distinct popular account
of the different families of monkeys. The
reader is disposed to wonder what set Al­
fred Russel Wallace writing such indisputa­
bly matter; but he finds out what it was
when, the description being done, in reviewing
the order, he pronounces monkeys to be rather low down in the scale of quadrupe­
dal life, both physically and mentally. He still
acknowledges that man is the crown of the
animal kingdom in both respects. One of
these days, perhaps, there will come a
writer of opinions less humdrum than those of
Dr. Wallace, and less in awe of the learned
and official world—for why is not this as sus­
posed as a fourth dimension of space?—
who will argue, like a new Bernard Mande­
ville, that man is but a degenerate monkey,
with a paranoid talent for self-satis­
faction, no matter what scruples he may
get his hands into, calling them “civilization,”
and who, in place of the unerring instincts
of other races, has an unhappy faculty for
occupying himself with words and abstrac­
tions, and for going wrong in a hundred ways
before he is driven, willy-nilly, into the right
one. Dr. Wallace would condemn such an
extravagant paradoxer. If a man must indulge
in paradox, let him do so in moderation.

Somewhat like the monkey essay in meth­
od is the first one in the book, which sketch­
es, not without artistic skill, the Yellow­
stone Park, the somewhat differently won­
derful Grose valley in New South Wales, and
other inaccessible valleys, the text being
beaten by excellent photographs (all the il­
ustrations in the book, by the way, are
choice); but all this is but a prelude to an
argument that these wells, as they might be
called, with their lofty vertical sides, have
been worn out by running water.

The anthropological essays relate mainly
to the Australians and to the Polynesian;
though there is interesting information
about the Malays, the Papuans of New Guinea,
the Veddahs of Ceylon, the Ainos of
Chorasmia. For, along with Mongol
features, and for going wrong in a hundred ways
soldiers, there is a moral sense, childlike in its can­
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centuries; and that the real reason why it
is the insensible, and not the large, varia-
tions that are efficient in natural selection
is, that the changes in the environment are
so slow that, a species having been already
adapted to one state of its environment, any
variation not quite minute would render it
less fitted for continuance than none at all.
He will also observe that the author draws
a strong line between the acceptability of
natural selection as the only cause of the
differentiation between allied species, which
he holds to be as good as proved, and the
acceptability of it as the cause of the dif-
ferentiation between families and higher
classes, which he thinks extremely doubtful.
He is decidedly disposed to accept the doc-
trines (or some of the doctrines) of Weis-
mann, although he sometimes slips back
into modes of thought which we venture to
think inconsistent with those doctrines.
Thus he says:

"We may, I think, say that variation is an
ultimate fact of nature, and needs no other
explanation than a reference to general
principles which indicate that it cannot fail
to exist. Does any one ask for a reason why
no two gravel-stones, or beach-pebbles, or
even grains of sand, are absolutely identical
in size, shape, surface, color, and composi-
tion? When we trace back the complex se-
cies of causes and forces that have led to
the production of these objects, do we not
see that their absolute identity would be
more remarkable than their diversity? So,
when we consider how infinitely more com-
plex have been the forces that have produc-
ed each individual animal or plant, and
when we know that no two animals can pos-
sibly have been subject to identical condi-
tions throughout the entire course of their
development, we see that the perfect iden-
tity in the result would be opposed to every-
thing we know of natural agencies."

But if he refers to vicissitudes in the
life of the individual animal in question, they
have no bearing on variation at birth; while
if he refers to vicissitudes of his parents'
lives, Weismann often speaks as if such cir-
cumstances could have no effect upon the
germlasm, and often makes the offspring
a mathematically exact resultant of the
germ-plasms of its parents, in so far as they
enter into it, and quite independent of aught
else. Wallace, however, does not go so far as
positively to deny the transmission of ac-
quired characters; he only maintains that
there is no real evidence of such a thing.
If there should ultimately turn out to be
such evidence, the theory of germ-plasm
would, apparently, collapse at once; and
Wallace seems to admit that the Darwinian
theory must stand or fall with germ-plasm.

We do not mean to discuss Mr. Wallace's
socialistic doctrines. We only note that he
holds, at once, strongly to the freedom of
the individual and to socialistic arrange-
ments, such as the state owning all the land,
issuing paper money, etc.