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ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

The doyen of English scientists, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, died on the 7th of this month, in his ninety-first year. In the establishment of the doctrine of evolution on a scientific basis, his name will always be linked with that of Darwin, as he had independently thought out the theory on which Darwin's work is based before the latter's results were placed before the public; but in generously yielding the field to his rival he gave to the world perhaps the finest of all examples of that spirit of personal disinterestedness in which science is rich beyond any other field of human endeavor. He was born January 8, 1823, in Monmouthshire, and at an early age fitted himself for work as a surveyor and engineer. Soon, however, a marked bent for natural science began to assert itself. In 1848 he joined the South American expedition organized by H. W. Bates; and the following fourteen years of his life were mainly spent in scientific collecting and research work throughout South America and the Malay Archipelago. In 1886-7 he visited America, travelling from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Numerous scientific studies of the first importance have appeared from his pen. But it was not to science alone that he devoted his fine intellectual powers. Always an interested student of sociology, he had the keenest of eyes for detecting the rotten timbers in our social structure, and was fearless in expressing his carefully-reached convictions, however radical. The more fundamental tenets of Socialism had his endorsement; he was President for a long term of years of the Land Nationalization Society, advocating constantly those policies with reference to the soil which the Liberal government in England is now putting into practice. As in the case of Ruskin, his heterodoxy brought upon him a liberal measure of abuse and ridicule from the hidebound of his own country and ours; but, like Ruskin, he never recanted or compromised in the face of obloquy. His life has been a long and noble service to humanity, performed in a spirit of modest self-effacement as rare almost as the achievement itself.