
Bree on Darwinism

I AM very much obliged to Mr. Alfred R. Wallace for pointing out some errors of the press, and some of hasty writing which were not corrected in the proofs, of my work upon the "Fallacies of Darwinism."

I do not think, however, he has adduced anything which justifies his virulent condemnation of a work which he has not ventured to criticise, and I do not, however, write for the purpose of making any complaint. I hope to have the opportunity of answering his remarks upon another occasion.

My object in writing is, however, to request you will give me the opportunity of pointing out that no blunder which I have made is so great as that committed by Mr. Wallace himself, when he states that Darwin's imaginary human ancestor with cocked ears and a tail should have been evolved after the incoming of catarrhine monkeys, which creatures, by what I presume some might call anticipatory retrogression of development, have actually been placed by Mr. Darwin in the human pedigree, and separated from their congeners the platyrrhine or new-world monkeys, because they had so far reached the human goal to which they were tending as to lose their tails.

Also according to Mr. Wallace the cocked-eared creature must have not only re-evolved a tail, but have gone so far backward as to lose the human-shaped, and gain the canine-like "cocked ear."

Colchester, July 27

C. M. BREE