

Transcription, June 2016:

*Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, April 1901: 306-307 (anon.).

[p. 306]

*Studies, Scientific and Social*. By Alfred Russel Wallace, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c. In two volumes. (Macmillan & Co.)

The present work is a collection of “the more important articles” which the author has contributed to various magazines and reviews during the last thirty-five years. Many of the problems dealt with are connected with the theory of evolution, others with geological and physical subjects, and others, again, with educational, political, or social questions. The reader will probably be right in feeling a larger measure of confidence in the scientific than in the social essays in these volumes. A. R. Wallace holds views on many educational and social questions considerably at variance with recognised authorities, whilst on the evidence of evolution he is probably the greatest living English exponent, now that Darwin and Romanes have left us.

In these volumes there is abundance of interesting and instructive reading for minds the most diverse, including those who consider themselves not to be interested in scientific questions. For the traveller, for the student of nature, for the lover of animals, for the evolutionist, educationalist, ethnologist, and socialist, there is here ample material for quiet evenings or for practical work. It cannot be expected that any person reading these essays would find himself in agreement with the author on every point. Such is not necessary. What we do believe is that no person could read [p. 307] such papers as these without finding them to be suggestive and incentive to further investigation and reflection. Against many of the social wrongs of the present day A. R. Wallace is merciless, and at the close of this collection of papers he makes “an appeal” to his readers to consider the necessity for real and fundamental remedies (not mere palliatives), which shall be founded more upon social justice than upon organised charity.

*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2017.