

Barzum tells this in order to show how the materialistic movement was proceeding during those years and Darwinism did much to forward it.

The idea of evolution had actually begun long before Darwin. Prof. Osborne had listed 50 different writers in the half century before Darwin who wrote evolutionary ideas. Darwin's book came out in 1859. In 1847, 12 yrs. earlier, Disraeli, the English Prime Minister, wrote a novel in which he pictures a woman as saying, speaking of the current best-sellers, she said, All this is development; the principle is perpetually going on. First, there was nothing; then there was something. Then, I forget the next. I think there were shells, then fishes, then we came; let me see did we come next? Never mind that. We came at last. And the next change there will be something very superior to us, something with wings. Ah, that's it. We were fishes and I believe we shall be crows. But you must read it."

This is a parody on a book which had been written in 1844 and very widely circulated, a book which said, The idea then which I form of the progress of organic life upon our earth is of the simplest and most primitive type under a law to which that of like production gave birth to the type next above it. This again produced the next higher, and so on to the very highest. The stages of advance being in all cases very small, namely from one species to another, so that the phenomenon has always been of simple and modest character."

There was much writing of this type before Darwin's book was published. But it affected a comparatively small number of people -- the people who were trying to turn away from religion and who were seeking new truth and thinking they were finding it in the direction of materialism.

One such man was Thomas Henry Huxley. Huxley as a young man had received a great dislike for the church. He had been compelled to go to services where he had heard long tiresome discourses, and he hated it, and he became tremendously interested in science and he got a great dislike to the church.

Huxley believed that every species was absolutely distinct from every other species and there could be no crossing from one to the other. He had a friend named Darwin, and Darwin had a theory that one species developed into another and he often told Huxley about it. And he discussed it with Huxley, and Huxley always said, I just can't see it. I can't see it at all.

Darwin tells us how he got his theory. Darwin read a book by Malthus on the human life and the theory that people constantly have to have war and pestilence in order to keep down the population. As he read this book of Malthus, Darwin said, he finished the book and an idea came to him like a flash, he said, That's the way one species turns into another. The species becomes very large, and then the poorer members of it die off, and the ones that are adapted for survival continue and then they move in a certain direction, and thus