

Evolution #511 #6

publisher's amazement the book just went like wildfire, and was read all over England immediately. And the reason was not the brilliance of the book; it was the fact that England was just ripe for it. England was filled with dead orthodoxy. Now dead orthodoxy is a whole lot better than living heterodoxy; but neither one is desirable in the sight of God. But England was then filled with dead orthodoxy.

England

A century before that had been a land in which there was very little Gospel preaching.

~~England~~

England a century before that, or a little more, had sunk to as low a depth as it had ever sunk. ~~Its morals~~ In morals, in attitude toward the Bible, Blackstone, the ^{noted} great commentator, went to many of the great churches in London and he wrote that he didn't find a single one where he could tell from the man's preaching whether he was a follower of Christ, of Confucius, of Buddha or of Mohammed. That was the depth to which England sank. And then God raised up John Wesley and Charles Wesley, and the great evangelist, Whitfield, and these three men and their associates changed the religious face of England. And the founding of the Methodist Church, which resulted from the activity of the Wesleys, so far as England was concerned, was a comparatively small part of their effect. They affected all denominations, and England was changed, and became a great ~~land of faith~~ land of faith in God, one of the greatest Christian lands in the world, as a result of that great awakening of the 18th century. But when Darwin came along the awakening had had a few decades to die down lower, and lower and lower; and it had gotten to the point where there were a great many people who wanted to throw out their allegiance to the Bible but didn't quite dare say so. And they were in just that situation where people were looking for something to grab ahold of as an excuse for turning away from Christianity, when Darwin's book came out. And I think that explains, to a very great extent, the great success of the book. Now one other thing to mention there is that the name of Darwin is not the great name in the spread of evolution. Darwin was the figure. Darwin was the picture of the great imperturbable scientist that gave respectability to it. But the man that made evolution accepted in England was Huxley. Darwin called him his ~~bulldog~~. Oh, no, Huxley said, "I am Darwin's bulldog." ~~Darwin said he was his~~ general manager.