

What Darwin actually did was to lend his name to a general teaching that had already begun to permeate the intellectual classes of Great Britain, thus giving respectability to a theory that previously had been considered as highly imaginative. Since Darwin had the reputation of being a careful methodical researcher, the fact that he wrote a book supporting such a view caused it to receive far greater attention than ever before. It is doubtful, however, whether this would have produced the Darwinian revolution apart from the vigorous propagandizing and vehement support that was accorded it by Darwin's friend, Thomas Henry Huxley.