

There were, of course, many people who were strongly convinced of the full truth of the Bible, and on this ground opposed any idea of a purely mechanistic origin of the various types of life. There were also many scientists who did not believe in evolution, and who were inclined to be extremely skeptical of the book.

Now that it was possible to use the name of Darwin to advance the theory of evolution, it would doubtless have received far greater acceptance than before. Yet it is highly questionable whether 1859 would have been such an important date in the history of thought, or whether the theory would have received more than a small part of the recognition that came to it so soon, if it had not been for the activities of two fiery advocates, Thomas Henry Huxley in England and Ernst Haeckel in Germany.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY

Since Huxley's support was so important in the establishment of the evolutionary theory we should pay some attention to the career of this remarkable man.

Huxley was 16 years younger than Darwin. He was a man of great intelligence, devoted to the study of science. He was also a man of strong emotions, much interested in religious philosophy and metaphysics. As a boy he had been obliged to listen to long and dry sermons which greatly repelled him, and he had developed a strong animosity to the church.

An interesting illustration of Huxley's attitude toward the church is found in his description of an experience while engaged in the study of anatomy. At one time during his medical course he found it very difficult to remember which side of the heart the mitral valve was on. Then, he said, it occurred to him that a bishop has a mitre. After that he had no further difficulty. Since a bishop could not possibly be right, the mitral valve must naturally be on the left!

At a later time Huxley expressed his idea of theologians in these words: "Extinguished theologians lie about the cradle of every science as the strangled