

became a religion to Huxley. Fifteen years later he declared: He

"The publication of the Origin of Species marks the Hegira of Science from the idolatries of special creation to the purer faith of Evolution."

Darwin himself had a shy and retiring disposition, and never liked to go to public meetings. He said that if he expressed a harsh word of criticism he would be unable to sleep the following night. Public attacks upset him; sometimes he wrote rejoinders, but usually he was glad to leave his defense to Huxley. In time he came to speak of Huxley as "my general agent." Huxley, however, referred to himself as "Darwin's bulldog." Whenever Darwin's ideas were to be discussed at a great public meeting, Huxley was ready and fully armed. He was an able debater and a quick thinker on his feet, extremely skillful in handling repartee.

Darwin and Huxley made an ideal combination. Huxley could speak vigorously and even caustically, while Darwin remained in the background as the quiet thinker, apparently standing aloof from the battle.

In Germany there was a parallel situation. Ernst Haeckel, a young biologist who was already a strong opponent of the Christian church, read the Origin of Species with great enthusiasm and thenceforth devoted his life to the spread of its teachings, waging unceasing and violent war against its opponents. Haeckel concentrated on himself all the hatred and bitterness that evolution aroused, so that very soon it became the custom in Germany to abuse Haeckel while holding up Darwin as the ideal of moderation.

A recent writer has declared that the constant and enthusiastic propaganda of Huxley in England and Haeckel in Germany resulted in the widespread acceptance of Darwinism twenty or thirty years sooner than would otherwise have been the case.