

The Law of Progress.

The Evolution of Attributes

Social Evolution

Evolutionary Progress.

Evolution and Progress

whether one regards the theory of evolution as having solved the problem of the origin of species or not, it is beyond question that ~~it~~ its investigation has revealed the law of differential attributes within the limits of species.

It is never easy to perceive that ~~various~~ individuals of the same species differ from each other as a consequence of variance in one or more of three formative forces:

- 1 - Inheritance
- 2 - Material environment and
- 3 - Mental or moral impulses.

Of these forces the first is of necessity the most important in the lower grades of existence, in which the perceptives organs are less developed and the moral and reflective faculties hardly discernible. So far as these grades of being are concerned, environment means only sustentation, temperature and the accessibility of the food supply. The earth worm, for instance, is affected by heat, drought, excess of moisture, ^{the} penetrability

and intuitive character of the
soil in which it exists. Its intelli=
gence is not strong enough to in=
duce any change in form, color, or
habit, because of any particular dan=
ger to which it may be exposed.

Its modifying environment is pure=
ly material. Mental influences are
reduced to the minimum and
there is an entire lack of moral
impulses, which arise only from

the most highly developed
~~simple~~ mental organism.

The only influences which can effect
such an existence arise from in-
heritance and ^{unconscious} ~~the~~ material environ-
ment. Volition has only the smallest-
possible place ^{if any} in determining the quality
of the individual. Unconscious ad-
aptation is the only response
to material environment.

With a broader intellect comes
an enhancement
at once ~~the~~ enlargement of the
influence of environment upon the
individual. Heredity, of course, re-
mains the same: as a factor of the
resultant life its influence can neither
be enlarged or diminished by the
character of that life. Its force is ex-
pended in the act of generation.
Like begets like; but the quality of the
resultant life is more or less affected
by the volition of the individual.
Fear repels; passion inflames; love
attracts. Influenced by one tendency
he becomes fleet, timid, artful.

influenced by another he ^{becomes} ~~gross~~
aggressive and destructive: under
the influence of the third he preens
his feathers and displays his charms.
The individual life is modified
by individual tendency. Attrite
is evolved and the life
which was mere existence be-
comes, at once, variegated
and complex. From this point
the power of heredity to shape and
control the resultant life ceases to be
omnipotent; the force of environ-

conscious environment shrinks;
or rather these two forces re-
main static and that of con-
scious and observed environ-
ment increases with increas-
ing intelligence. Thus the rel-
ative force of heredity and un-
conscious material environment
is reduced ^{as} the power of
observed or conscious en-
vironment increases.

~~When these three forces~~

With a still more enlarged intelligence comes a third, or possibly it may be merely an enlargement of the observed or conscious environment, to wit, the mental or moral impulse. Perhaps the migratory instinct in ^{certain} birds and animals, is the lowest observed manifestation of such distinct impulse. In these cases, it becomes hereditary, and in its beginnings may have been

almost unconscious, yet
it is affected by reason; the
perils to which the individual
is exposed and other known
modifications which can only
be the result of conscious
purpose. This force increases in
potency until the highest limit
of human consciousness is reach-
ed and ^{its special pre-eminence} ~~that fact constitutes~~ the
~~distinctive difference~~ be as a de-
finite force in human char-
acter constitutes the distinct

difference between mankind and
the lower forms of existence. From
the advent of this form both heredity
and unconscious ^{material} environment
become of less and less com-
parative significance. Volition
takes the place of submission.
Man begins to fight ~~unto~~ world
influences and seeks to become
what he desires to be rather
than what his inheritance
and environment would make
him if left to their ~~medi-~~
ated action. He struggles not
only with his ~~own~~ ~~instincts~~ and

conscious environment but
takes up arms against the
forces of nature itself. He modi-
fies climate, battles with ster-
ility, creates abundance, his
defiance to want, and ~~is~~ becomes
in a thousand ways the crea-
tor of the very influences
which shape his character.

From these facts, it becomes
apparent, that the evolution of
attribute within the bounds
of species, is regulated

by ~~these~~ distinct rules one
distinct and positive law,
to wit: