Dealing with Darwin
Place, Politics and Polemics in Christian Engagements with Evolution
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The evil tendencies of recent scientific theories ... threaten to quench every virtuous thought, to repress every noble aspiration

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We have thus arrived at the answer to our question. What is Darwinism? Darwinism is atheism

Charles Hodge
We have thus arrived at the answer to our question. What is Darwinism? Darwinism is atheism—Charles Hodge

If the theory of descent with modification is true, it should be expected that in the regions recently separated, the animals would differ but slightly; in regions separated long ago, the animals would differ more widely. This is exactly what we find—James Woodrow
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Travelling Theory
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Travelling Theory

... complicates any account of the transplantation, transference, circulation, and commerce of theories and ideas

Edward Said
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Travelling Theory

Text and Talk
When minds meet, they don’t just exchange facts: they transform them, reshape them, draw different implications from them, engage in new trains of thought. Conversation doesn’t just reshuffle the cards: it creates new cards.

Theodore Zeldin
It is all very well for Wallace to wonder at scientific men being afraid of saying what they think. Had he as many kind and good relations as I have, who would be grieved and pained to hear me say what I think, and had he children who would be placed in predicaments most detrimental to children’s minds … he would not wonder so much.

Joseph Dalton Hooker
I have always taken pains, in my lectures at Nashville, to avoid the utterance of opinions which I supposed were disapproved of by the officers of the University.

Alexander Winchell
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Travelling Theory

Text and Talk

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The separation of this Union will be a convulsion ... but, like those vast convulsions of geological times, it will be a convulsion of development ... a grand and majestic step in advance.

If this be the course of our development, then is it in perfect harmony with all other great developments in nature.

John McCrady
Whenever a white race comes into contact with an indigenous dark race on ground suitable to the former, the latter must disappear in a few generations.
Whenever a white race comes into contact with an indigenous dark race on ground suitable to the former, the latter must disappear in a few generations.

... even the most sensitive philanthropist may learn to look with resignation, if not with complacency, on the extinction of a people which, in the past had accomplished so imperfectly every object of man’s being.

William Travers, 1869
... the Norwegian had destroyed the native rat ... so surely would the Maori disappear before the pakeha ...
one of the inscrutable laws of Nature

Walter Buller
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the law of mutual aid ... is if anything more important than the law of the struggle for existence

Karl Kessler
... we witnessed numbers of facts of mutual support ...
The same impression appears in the work of most Russian zoologists, and it probably explains why Kessler’s ideas were so welcomed by the Russian Darwinists, while like ideas are not in vogue amidst the followers of Darwin in Western Europe.

Peter Kropotkin
... stand against the Darwinist exaggeration of struggle within a species. *We see a great deal of mutual aid*, where Darwin and Wallace see *only struggle*.

*Peter Kropotkin*
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Travelling Theory

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Putting Darwinism in its Place

Religious Encounters with Evolution

- Edinburgh, Evolution and Mimetic Cannibalism
Evolution is continually going on before our eyes ... I should not regard the question, whether man’s animal constitution could conceivably be developed from lower forms, as one of any great theological interest

Robert Rainy
Life has its joys, my son, if we earn them!

Thomas Henry Huxley
Evolution stands before us as an impressive reality in the history of Nature.

Henry Calderwood
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• Belfast, Tyndall and Science in a Sectarian Society
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All religious theories, schemes and systems which embrace notions of cosmogony ... must ... submit to the control of science, and relinquish all thought of controlling it

John Tyndall
... wrought the ruin of the communities and individuals who have acted out its principles in the past; and if the people of Belfast ... practise its degrading dogmas, the moral destiny of the metropolis of Ulster may easily be forecast

Robert Watts

Atomism—An Examination of Professor Tyndall’s Opening Address before the British Association, 1874
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...blasphemy upon this Catholic nation ... by Professors of Materialism ... under the name of Science

Pastoral Letter Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland November 1874
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I dread the influence of the Scotch Theological Halls

Robert Watts

... one of those unhappy constituted men who cannot write unless they are angry

Marcus Dods
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• Columbia, Woodrow and the Culture of the Lost Cause
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... between Dr. Woodrow’s hypothesis and the Bible as our church interprets it: between the scientific view and our Bible – the Bible as it is to us

John Girardeau
We say these teachings of evolution are dangerous errors, because they endanger the plenary inspiration of the scriptures

George D. Armstrong
The satanic artificers of our subjugation well knew the work which they designed to perpetrate: it is so to mingle that blood which flowed in the veins of our Washingtons, Lees, and Jacksons, and which consecrated the battle fields of the Confederacy, with this sordid, alien taint.

Robert Dabney
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- Columbia, Woodrow and the Culture of the Lost Cause
- Princeton, Darwin and the Short-Horn Cattle
I was already a Darwinian of the purest water

Benjamin B. Warfield
Great credit is due to my elder son, Prof. Benjamin B. Warfield, D.D., now of Princeton ... nor has the pursuit of the more weighty things of theology destroyed his capacity for taking an occasional part in the active discussion of cattle matters.

William Warfield
By ‘natural selection’ the strongest are made stronger; the weaker go to the wall. The survival of the fittest was a well chosen and apt term to express this idea.

William Warfield
...in using the expression Natural Selection, Mr. Darwin intends to exclude design, or final causes
It is useless to tell the younger naturalists that there is no truth in the doctrine of development ... Religious philosophers might be more profitably employed in showing them the religious aspects of the doctrine

James McCosh
In all past ages there have been new powers added. Life seized the mineral mass, and formed the plant; sensation imparted to the plant made the animal; ... intelligence has turned the animal into man; morality has raised the intelligence to love and law ... the work of the Spirit is not an anomaly. It is one of a series; the last and the highest

James McCosh
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Calvin’s Doctrine of the Creation

Princeton Theological Review 1915

... a very pure evolutionary scheme

... Calvin would have been a precursor of the modern evolutionary theorists