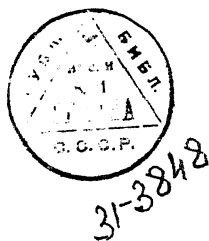


ORGANIC EVOLUTION

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CROSS-EXAMINED

OR SOME SUGGESTIONS ON THE
GREAT SECRET OF BIOLOGY

BY THE
DUKE OF ARGYLL
K.G., ETC.



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PREFACE

THE three Chapters in this work—little altered—were all originally contributions to the *Nineteenth Century*, which by the kind permission of the Editor, Mr. Knowles, I now republish in a separate and connected form.

Mr. Spencer, in the May 1897 number of the same Review, has ascribed to me, in these papers, several misconceptions as to his contentions and position. These, however, are all open to argument—except one. In this one Mr. Spencer thinks I have

represented him as accepting a comparatively short period for the duration of the living world—whereas he merely argued that even assuming the shorter period, it might be quite long enough for the evolutions of Biology. I quite understood this, and have altered a few words to make the meaning clearer. In my reasoning, and in his former reasoning, everything turns not on the actual time, but on the supposed necessity for some enormous time. This is abandoned in Mr. Spencer's new argument, and the change is one having all the significance that I attach to it.

ARGYLL.

CHAPTER I

A GREAT CONFESSION

AMONG the many distinguished men who have contributed to the world's plebiscite in favour of the Darwinian hypothesis on the origin of species, there is no one so distinguished as Mr. Herbert Spencer. He alone has dealt with it systematically. He has pursued the idea of development with wonderful ingenuity through not a few of its thousand ramifications. He has carried it into philosophy and metaphysics. He has clothed it in numerous and subtle forms of speech, appealing to various faculties, and offering to each its appro-