

fish," the lady continues: "Oh! but it is all proved . . . you understand, it is all science; it is not like these books in which one said one thing and another the contrary, and both may be wrong. Everything is proved--by geology, you know."

In having his characters speak in this fashion, Disraeli was reflecting the great contemporary interest in a book called Vestiges of Creation that had appeared in 1844, fifteen years before the publication of Darwin's book. This book presented a thorough-going idea of evolution. Charles Darwin read this book with great care and made extensive notes in the margin of his copy. *Another Scientist Mamma* *✓*  
*named T. H. Huxley (of whom more later)* wrote a savage review, in which he strongly attacked many of its statements, using such phrases as "mean view of nature," "pretentious nonsense" and "foolish fancies." The book did not have much standing among reputable scientists, but in the world of fashion and intellectual dilettanteism it was very influential.

The idea of evolution was not new. Darwin's part was not to originate it, but to give it respectability.

Charles Darwin was a careful observer of nature who had spent nearly four years on a voyage to South America and other areas, examining plants, animals, and geological formations. Returning to England he devoted himself to careful scientific research, and carried on correspondence with others with similar interests. At one time he devoted eight years to studying thousands of barnacles. When one of Bulwer-Lytton's novels described a Professor Long, who was said to have written two large volumes about limpets, many people immediately recognized Darwin as the original of the character.

There were many who were already familiar with the idea of organic evolution--that the great profusion of plants and animals had come to exist,