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However, Darwin insisted that the book be published exactly as it was, and the publisher hesitantly agreed to do so.

Much to the surprise of both Darwin and the publisher the book was immediately received with great acclaim. The reason for this is easy to see. As we have noticed, many who desired to abandon the Biblical teaching about creation had become fascinated by the idea of evolution. This idea had been strongly criticized by outstanding scientists such as Thomas Henry Huxley who was firmly convinced that species are so fixed that there can be no change from one into another. The idea of evolution appeared to lack scientific respectability, yet many wished to believe it. Now a book by a well-known scientist had appeared, presenting a method which its author felt was sufficient to explain the origin of every type of life from a previous type, and thus to make divine creation quite unnecessary.

We have noticed two reasons for the great influence of Darwin's book: (1) ~~X~~ the fact that a man whose name stood for slow, methodical research rather than wild speculation was ready to endorse a theory that many had thought was held only by crackpots, and (2) ~~X~~ the widespread desire, often unrealized, for an escape from the ideas that had flowed from the Great Awakening of the previous century. Yet these by themselves would probably have failed to give it lasting significance. A third factor of at least equal importance resulted from the activities of T. H. Huxley.

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Huxley had known Darwin for about five years and was very fond of him. During most of his adult life Darwin suffered from a variety of illnesses. He had to spend a good deal of time in bed, and rarely left his home, but still was able to devote a large part of his time to research and writing. When invited to attend a scientific meeting or to give a public address, he