

*et al.*², was found to be the most suitable spraying reagent, and was used throughout, as it did not appear to be inhibited by the presence of borate ions, in contrast to silver nitrate. Good results have also been obtained with the separations of the glycols and their derivatives.

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The Huxley-Wilberforce Debate: a Postscript

THE famous occasion when T. H. Huxley crossed swords with Samuel Wilberforce, at the 1860 Oxford meeting of the British Association, has been often described; and recently D. J. Foskett has published¹ Huxley's contemporary account of the encounter. There has recently come to light the draft (in a box file in the basement of the Zoology Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology) of a note sent by Huxley to Wilberforce early in 1861, as follows:

The Athenæum.
Jany 3rd, 1861.

Professor Huxley presents his compliments to the Lord Bishop of Oxford—Believing that his Lordship has as great an interest in the ascertainment of the truth as himself, Professor Huxley ventures to draw the attention of the Bishop to a paper in the accompanying number of the *Natural History Review* "On the Zoological Relations of Man with the Lower Animals".

The Bishop of Oxford will find therein full justification for the diametrical contradiction with which he heard Prof. Huxley meet certain anatomical statements put forth at the first meeting of Section D, during the late session of the British Association at Oxford.

Unfortunately, we do not have Wilberforce's reply—if any were sent—to this polite but delicately barbed note.

The *Natural History Review* had been taken over by Huxley and some friends for publication in England, having earlier been published in Ireland under the editorship of Edward Perceval Wright, and it was the first number under the new management which was sent to Wilberforce. "The tone of the Review", Huxley had told Hooker², "will be

mildly episcopophagous"—a prospect which apparently outweighed the urgings of Darwin³, Hooker⁴ and Lyell⁵ that Huxley should not take upon his already heavily burdened shoulders this new editorial duty. Before long, the substance of Huxley's paper was being given in more popular form, as six lectures to working men at the School of Mines in Jermyn Street, under the title "On the Relations of Man to the rest of the Anl. Kingdom"⁶; and after a few lectures Huxley was writing to his wife⁷, "My working men stick by me wonderfully, the house being fuller than ever last night. By next Friday evening they will all be convinced that they are monkeys".

The publication of these working-men's lectures in the *Natural History Review* led to an invitation to cover the same ground before the Edinburgh Philosophical Institute. "Fancy unco guid Edinburgh requiring illumination on the subject!" Huxley wrote⁸ to his wife. "They know my views, so if they do not like what I shall have to tell them, it is their own fault". Darwin's diplomatic ambiguity, "Light will be thrown on the origin and the history of man", was not for Huxley; as he put it to Hooker⁹, "I told them in so many words that I entertain no doubt of the origin of man from the same stock as the apes". On reading an account of the lectures, Darwin wrote¹⁰ jubilantly, "By Jove you have attacked Bigotry in its strong-hold. I thought you would have been mobbed"; and Lyell¹¹ urged Huxley to tone down some of the passages when he came to publish his little book, "Evidences as to Man's Place in Nature". Huxley accepted some of Lyell's suggestions, but¹² he found it "a great piece of self-denial... and I hope I shall be rewarded for the virtue". As he saw more of the proofs, Lyell became really alarmed and wrote¹³, "if the worst is in sheets not yet thrown off do let me see it that I may try & suggest something of the suaviter in modo—", adding as a monitoring postscript, "I hope you send none of these dangerous sheets to press without Mrs. Huxley's imprimatur". However, the book went to press and was a great success. As Huxley wrote to Lord Rosebery some thirty years later¹⁴, "abuse for six or seven years... is not of the greatest consequence, when one happens to be in the right & stands to one's guns. But you really cannot imagine what a disreputable person the author of M.P. in N. was in the decade 1860-70—and now the doctrines of that horrid book are taught in the schools".

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