

RECORD: Anon. 1882. [Obituary of Charles Darwin]. *The county paper* (Missouri), (5 May), p. 8.

REVISION HISTORY: Transcribed by Christine Chua and edited by John van Wyhe 2.2020. RN1.

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MR. Charles Darwin, who has just passed away full of years and honor, is probably the man who has done most to make the nineteenth century famous, full as it has been of wonders, because he has done more than any other man since Copernicus to change the ideas of the civilised world touching man's relations to the physical universe.

Copernicus and Kepler may be said to have closed the mediæval epoch, and fatally shaken the authority of the Church in the domain of natural philosophy, but then they never reached the popular mind, and produced but little rearrangement of ideas outside the scientific world. Moreover, the doctrine of evolution as an explanation of the earth and the heavenly bodies as we now see them, had made its appearance long before Darwin's day, without producing much impression on morals, or theology, or politics. It was Darwin's application of it to the explanation of the animal world, as we now see it, which made it a really an increasing force in human affairs - a force which, though it may be said to have been felt for only little over twenty-five years, has already profoundly affected the modern way of looking at nearly all social problems. It is safe to say that there is hardly any sphere of human activity in which the influence of his ideas is not felt in a greater or less degree, and it bids fair to grow with an accelerated ratio.