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ROUGH DRAFT ON EVOLUTION

Not long ago I picked up a book entitled "Apes, Angels, and Victorians", which contained a very interesting description of the beginning of Darwinism in England. The book whetted my interest in this phase of historical study and soon I became convinced of a number of facts that seemed to me to be very great importance for every minister to know. Yet I was not myself previously aware of them and imagine that to many others they are equally unfamiliar.

During the past century the Evolutionary Theory has spread through the civilized world to such an extent that today great numbers of people consider it as absolutely proven. Some Christians try to accept a form of Evolution and at the same time to hold to the essentials of Christianity, doubtless on the assumption that Evolution is now so thoroughly established in the scientific world that any attempt to disrupt (?) it is useless. I do not believe that careful investigation of recent scientific literature will support such a view. Many of the arguments originally advanced for Evolution have now been widely discarded. Some scientists consider the matter as a means of classification rather than necessarily a picture of how things actually came into being. The number of scientists ~~who~~ of today who are personally qualified to judge of Evolution is really not great. The vast majority spend their time and effort on matters that have little or no relation to the question of Evolution and accept the theory simply as a result of faith in others who dogmatically support it. Most scientists deal with a comparatively small area of science and the number who are qualified to speak authoritatively on the many bits of evidence that would need to be evaluated carefully to establish such a theory is actually quite small. Yet the overwhelming bulk of scientists today maintain that the theory is true and are ready to lend their names to its support.

It is not my purpose today to attempt an examination or evaluation of any large part of the evidence for and against the Evolutionary Theory. Before we are through we may spend a little time dealing with this aspect of the matter. My central purpose today is something quite different--it is to give an