which is also thin and wavy-margined. Placed upon a mass of Sargassum in an aquarium, the Scyllaea was hard to find, so closely did it imitate the appearance of the leaves. To make this an undoubted case, the Scyllaea should have been found upon the gulf-weed, and should never occur anywhere else.[1] This was found on the sand; and it is the only specimen that has ever been found by our party, so that we may consider it a rarity. As it can swim very readily, almost like a heteropod in this respect, and is naturally found only in the outside waters, the chances were against their being found in any numbers. It seems to me that there can be but little doubt that this creature presents another interesting case of mimicry, and deserves mention, and additional observation if any one is so situated as to be able to make it. Henry Leslie Osborn.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY ON DARWIN.

Our readers have been informed, that, through popular international subscription, a fund had been raised to erect a statue to Charles Darwin, and that this was recently unveiled with appropriate ceremonies at the new museum of natural history in South Kensington. We copy from *Nature* the address upon that occasion, made by Professor Huxley in the name of the committee, to the Prince of Wales as representative of the trustees of the British museum. We accompany it by a portrait and signature of Darwin, taken from a photograph obtained in London in 1872, and inscribed, "I like this photograph better than any other which has ever been taken of me. — Ch. Darwin."

"Your royal highness, — It is now three years since the announcement of the death of our famous countryman, Charles Darwin, gave rise to a manifestation of public feeling, not only in these realms, but throughout the civilized world, which, if I mistake not, is without precedent in the modest annals of scientific biography.

"The causes of this deep and wide outburst of emotion are not far to seek. We had lost one of those rare ministers and interpreters of nature whose names mark epochs in the advance of natural knowledge; for, whatever be the ultimate verdict of posterity upon this or that opinion which Mr. Darwin has propounded, whatever adumbrations or anticipations of his doctrines may be found in the writings of his predecessors, the broad fact remains, that since the publication, and by reason of the publication, of the 'Origin of species,' the fundamental conceptions and the aims of the students of living nature have been completely changed. From that work has sprung a great renewal, a true *instauratio magna* of the zoölogical and botanical sciences.

"But the impulse thus given to scientific thought rapidly spread beyond the ordinarily recognized limits of biology. Psychology, ethics, cosmology, were stirred to their foundations; and the 'Origin of species' proved itself to be the fixed point which the general doctrine of evolution needed in order to move the world. 'Darwinism,' in one form or another, sometimes strangely distorted and mutilated, became an every-day topic of men's speech, the object of an abundance both of vituperation and of praise more often than of serious study.

"It is curious, now, to remember how largely, at first, the objectors predominated; but, considering the usual fate of new views, it is still more curious to consider for how short a time the phase of vehement opposition lasted. Before twenty years had passed, not only had the importance of Mr. Darwin's work been fully recognized, but the world had discerned the simple, earnest, generous character of the man, that shone through every page of his writings.

"I imagine that reflections such as these swept through the minds alike of loving friends and of honorable antagonists when Mr. Darwin died, and that they were at one in the desire to honor the memory of the man, who, without fear and without reproach, had successfully fought the hardest intellectual battle of these days.

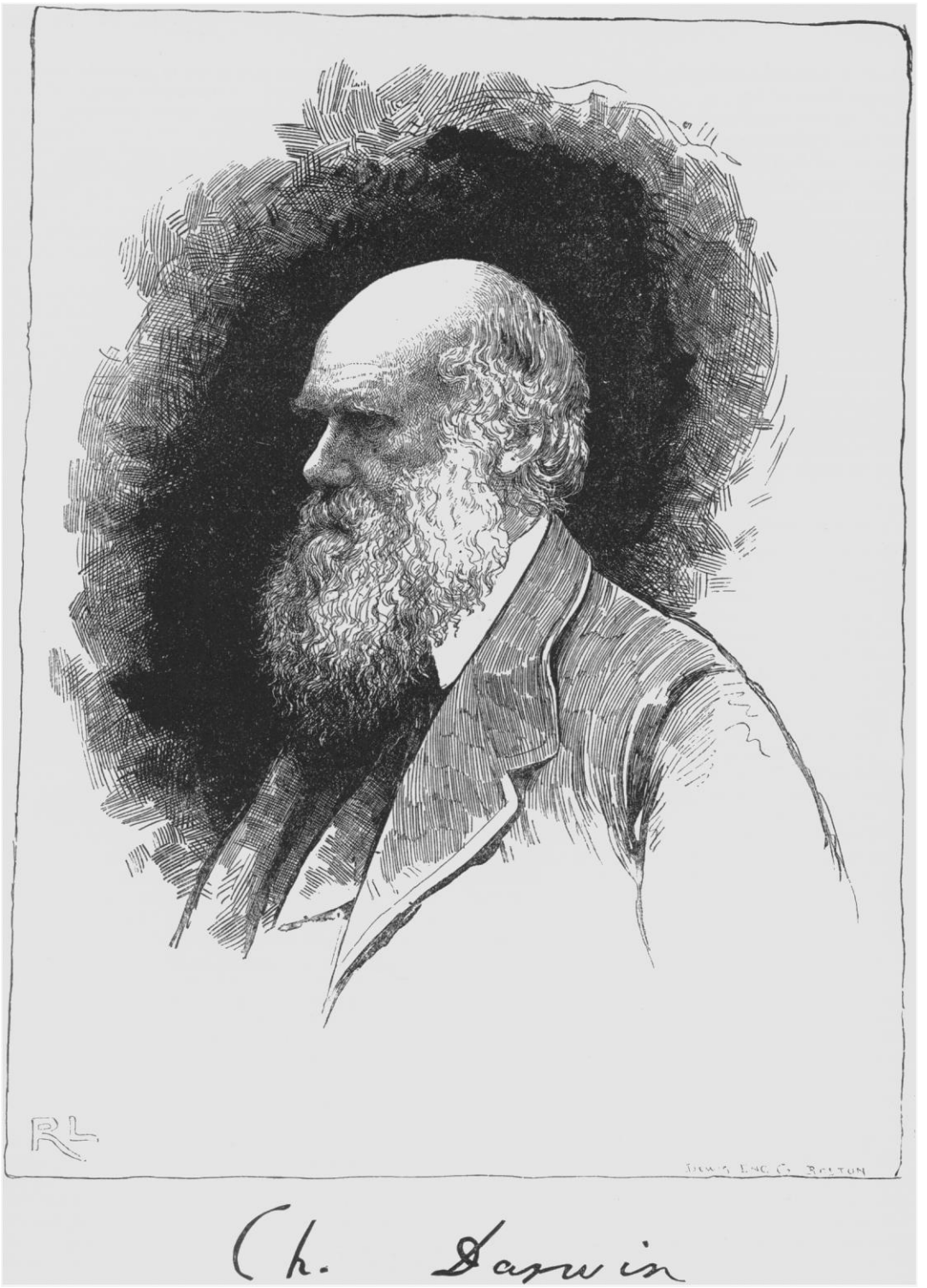
"It was in satisfaction of these just and generous impulses that our great naturalist's remains were deposited in Westminster Abbey; and that immediately afterwards, a public meeting, presided over by my lamented predecessor, Mr. Spottiswoode, was held in the rooms of the Royal society for the purpose of considering what further steps should be taken towards the same end.

"It was resolved to invite subscriptions, with the view of erecting a statue of Mr. Darwin in some suitable locality, and to devote any surplus to the advancement of the biological sciences. Contributions at once flowed in from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and the British Colonies, no less than from all parts of the three kingdoms; and they came from all classes of the community. To mention one interesting case, Sweden sent in 2,296 subscriptions 'from all sorts of people;' as the distinguished man of science who transmitted them wrote, 'from the bishop to the seamstress, and in sums from five pounds to twopence.'

"The executive committee has thus been enabled to carry out the objects proposed. A 'Darwin fund' has been created, which is to be held in trust by the Royal society, and is to be employed in the promotion of biological research. The execution of the statue was intrusted to Mr. Boehm; and I think that those who had the good fortune to know Mr. Darwin personally will admire the power of artistic divination which has enabled the sculptor to place before us so very characteristic a likeness of one whom he had not seen.

"It appeared to the committee, that, whether they

[1] Dr. Breitenbach, in the article above referred to, mentions without any names, and with too vague description for indentification, a creature on the Sargassum that would seem to be Scyllaea.



From a photograph inscribed,
"I LIKE THIS PHOTOGRAPH VERY MUCH BETTER THAN ANY OTHER WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN OF ME."

regarded Mr. Darwin's career or the requirements of a work of art, no site could be so appropriate as this great hall; and they applied to the trustees of the British museum for permission to erect it in its present position. That permission was most cordially granted, and I am desired to tender the best thanks of the committee to the trustees for their willingness to accede to our wishes. I also beg leave to offer the expression of our gratitude to your royal highness for kindly consenting to represent the trustees to-day.

"It only remains for me, your royal highness, my lords and gentlemen, trustees of the British museum, in the name of the Darwin memorial committee, to request you to accept this statue of Charles Darwin. We do not make this request for the mere sake of perpetuating a memory; for, so long as men occupy themselves with the pursuit of truth, the name of Darwin runs no more risk of oblivion than does that of Copernicus or that of Harvey.

"Nor, most assuredly, do we ask you to preserve the statue in its cynosural position in this entrance-hall of our National museum of natural history as evidence that Mr. Darwin's views have received your official sanction; for science does not recognize such sanctions, and commits suicide when it adopts a creed.

"No: we beg you to cherish this memorial as a symbol by which, as generation after generation of students of nature enter yonder door, they shall be reminded of the ideal according to which they must shape their lives, if they would turn to the best account the opportunities offered by the great institution under your charge."

ROUTES INTO THE INTERIOR OF WESTERN CHINA.[1]

A GLANCE at the map shows in Yun-Nan and the adjacent part of Burmah the proximity of several large rivers, which separate farther south, and empty along the coast between the Yellow Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Evidently the solution of the problem of reaching western China is to be sought in the course of these rivers or on their banks. The first of these rivers to the east is the Yang-Tze-Kiang, which may be easily ascended for seven hundred kilometres. Junks can proceed above that as far as Sion-Choo, in Se-Chuen; but it is impossible to go higher, and consequently impossible to reach Yun-Nan. South of the Yang-Tze-Kiang is the Si-Kiang, or Canton River, navigable to the city Pe-se, nine hundred kilometres. Regular caravans then proceed by land to Yun-Nan, a route which is shorter than by the Yang-Tze-Kiang.

But Song-Ka, the river of Tonquin, offers a shorter route than this; and Lieut. Kergaradec says that steamers of light draught can reach Laos-Kai, on the Chinese frontier, while junks ascend to Mang-Hao, in the centre of the Yun-Nan territory.

We have nothing to hope from the Me-Kong. Its outlet is much farther away, and rapids are numerous. It is impossible at present to seriously think of building a railway on its banks a thousand kilometres in length, and, what is more, in an unknown, savage, and hostile country, and one of the most mountainous regions of the world. The Saluen empties into the Indian Ocean; but in most of its course it flows near the Me-Kong and Yang-Tze-Kiang, and traverses with them the province of Yun-Nan. Starting from Martaban, a stone road could proceed to the junction of the Main-Long-Gye, follow this river, traverse the mountain range which separates the basins of the Saluen and the Me-Nam, proceed to Zimme, then to Kiang-Hai, descend the He-Kok to the Me-Kong, and ascend this river to the frontier of China, and even as far as Talifu. This is a long and very hilly course; for it is necessary to pass from one basin into a second, then into a third, and, further, to build the route into the valley of the Me-Kong, — a plan any thing but practicable. It means gigantic labor and incalculable expense, without considering the probable hostility of the population.

[1] Condensed from *Science et nature*.