

proved,* then there would be, it would seem, justification for the term 'isolation' in evolution theory, with a meaning not already pre-empted. This Professor Hutton claims, with Romanes and Gulick.

J. MARK BALDWIN.

PRINCETON, April 26, 1898.

A VIEW OF THE OHIO VALLEY IN 1755.

APROPOS of the interesting historical essay by Mr. Baker (SCIENCE, April 22, 1898), allow me to refer to an early and highly appreciative account of the Ohio valley by Lewis Evans, a clear headed contemporary and townsman of Franklin's, and the author of a 'Map of the Middle British Colonies in America,' with a descriptive text published in 1755.

Among other praises, he wrote: "Ohio is naturally furnished with salt, coal, limestone, grindstone, millstone, clay for glass-houses and pottery, which are vast advantages to an inland country, and well deserving the notice I take of them in the map. * * Were there nothing at stake between the crowns of Britain and France but the lands on that part of Ohio included in this map, we may reckon it as great a prize as has ever yet been contended for between two nations; but if we further observe that this is scarce a quarter of the valuable land that is contained in one continued extent, and the influence that a State vested with all the wealth and power that will naturally arise from the culture of so great an extent of good land in a happy climate, it will make so great an addition to that nation which wins it, where there is no third state to hold the balance of power, that the loser must inevitably sink under his rival."

While thus urging His British Majesty to dispute with the French the acquisition of the great Ohio country, Evans argues curiously against any dangerous influence that such an increase of possessions might have on the loyalty of the colonies. "Supposing the Colonies were grown rich and powerful, what inducement have they to throw off their independency? * * * Each colony having a particular form of government of its own, and the jealousy of either

having the superiority over the rest, are unsurmountable obstacles to their ever uniting to the prejudice of England upon any ambitious views of their own. But that repeated and continued ill usage, infringements of their dear-bought privileges, sacrificing them to the ambition and intrigues of domestic and foreign enemies, may not provoke them to do their utmost for their own preservation, I would not pretend to say, as weak as they are. But while they are treated as members of one body and allowed their natural rights, it would be the height of madness for them to propose an independency, were they ever so strong."

Evans must have had a sharp eye for topography, as his geographical descriptions are still good enough to quote, and are indeed much better than many accounts of later date. He recognizes the fall line—"this rief of rocks, over which all the rivers fall." The great Appalachian valley is held to be "the most considerable quantity of valuable land that the English are possess of; and runs through New Jersey, Pensilvania, Mariland and Virginia. It has yet obtained no general name, but may properly enough be called Piemont, from its situation." Of the Alleghenies, he says: "The Endless mountains * * * come next in order. They are not confusedly scattered and in lofty peaks overtopping one another, but stretch in long uniform ridges scarce half a mile perpendicular in any place above the intermediate vallies. * * * The mountains are almost all so many ridges with even tops and nearly of a height. To look from these hills into the lands is but, as it were, into an ocean of woods, swelled and deprest here and there by little inequalities, not to be distinguished one part from another any more than the waves of the real ocean."

Can any of the readers of SCIENCE give me a clue by which to reach some of the descendants of this early American geographer.

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MRS. PIPER, 'THE MEDIUM.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Your reference to my name in the editorial note in SCIENCE for April 15th, entitled 'Mrs. Piper, the Me-

* At present it is far from being proved. Cf. Professor Cockerell's review of Romanes in this JOURNAL, April 29, 1898.