

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Darwin

Two hundred years after his birth and 150 years after the publication of 'On the Origin of Species', Charles Darwin and his theories are still the focus of worldwide attention. This series offers not only works by Darwin, but also the writings of his mentors in Cambridge and elsewhere, and a survey of the impassioned scientific, philosophical and theological debates sparked by his 'dangerous idea'.

Life and Habit

William Bateson claimed at the Darwin Centenary celebrations in 1909 that Samuel Butler (1835–1902) was 'the most brilliant and by far the most interesting of Darwin's opponents, whose works are at length emerging from oblivion'. Best remembered today as the author of the novels *Erewhon* and *The Way of All Flesh*, he also wrote on a range of subjects from translations of Homer to studies of evolutionary thought. In his *Life and Habit* (published in 1878) Butler contended that much of inheritance was based on habit making a feature ingrained, to the extent that it could pass between generations. However, he strongly contests Darwin's views on natural selection, and supports those of Lamarck – who he felt was unjustly overlooked in the scientific rush to acclaim Darwin – and of St George Mivart, whose *On the Genesis of Species*, published in 1871 and also available in this series, was another blast against natural selection by a disenchanted Darwinist.

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
Samuel Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Life and Habit

SAMUEL BUTLER



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
Samuel Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108005517

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1878
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00551-7 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
Samuel Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIFE AND HABIT.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
 Samuel Butler
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIFE AND HABIT.

BY

SAMUEL BUTLER.

Τοιοῦτοι δὲ ὄντες ἀνθρώπων μὲν ἀπάντων καταφρονοῦσι.—LUCIAN, *Icaromenippus*, 30.

“We are all terribly afraid of them.”—*Paraphrase.*

Μέμνησο τοίνυν ταῦτά τε ἀπαγγεῖλαι τῷ Διὶ καὶ προσθεῖναι δ’ ὅτι μὴ δυνατὸν ἐστὶ μοι κατὰ χώραν μένειν, ἢν μὴ τοὺς φυσικοὺς ἐκείνους ἐπιτρίψῃ

. . . .

Ἔσται ταῦτα, ἦν δ’ ἐγώ.—LUCIAN, *Icaromenippus*, 21, 22.

“Lay it well, therefore, before Jupiter, that if he will not bring these men of science to their proper bearings, I can stay here no longer.”

“It shall be done,” I answered.—*Paraphrase.*

LONDON:
 TRÜBNER & CO., LUDGATE HILL.
 1878.

[*All rights reserved.*]

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
Samuel Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED

TO

CHARLES PAINE PAULI, ESQ.,
Barrister-at-Law,

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS INVALUABLE

CRITICISM OF THE PROOF-SHEETS OF THIS AND

OF MY PREVIOUS BOOKS,

AND IN RECOGNITION OF AN OLD AND

WELL-TRIED FRIENDSHIP.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00551-7 - Life and Habit
Samuel Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



PREFACE.



THE Italics in the passages quoted in this book are generally mine, but I found it almost impossible to call the reader's attention to this upon every occasion. I have done so once or twice, as thinking it necessary in these cases that there should be no mistake; on the whole, however, I thought it better to content myself with calling attention in a preface to the fact that the author quoted is not, as a general rule, responsible for the Italics.

S. BUTLER.

November 13, 1877.

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. ON CERTAIN ACQUIRED HABITS	I
II. CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS KNOWERS—THE LAW AND GRACE	20
III. APPLICATION OF FOREGOING CHAPTERS TO CERTAIN HABITS ACQUIRED AFTER BIRTH WHICH ARE COM- MONLY CONSIDERED INSTINCTIVE	43
IV. APPLICATION OF THE FOREGOING PRINCIPLES TO ACTIONS AND HABITS ACQUIRED BEFORE BIRTH	59
V. PERSONAL IDENTITY	78
VI. PERSONAL IDENTITY—(<i>continued</i>)	91
VII. OUR SUBORDINATE PERSONALITIES	104
VIII. APPLICATION OF THE FOREGOING CHAPTERS—THE ASSIMILATION OF OUTSIDE MATTER	125
IX. ON THE ABEYANCE OF MEMORY	150
X. WHAT WE SHOULD EXPECT TO FIND IF DIFFEREN- TIATIONS OF STRUCTURE AND INSTINCT ARE MAINLY DUE TO MEMORY	166
XI. INSTINCT AS INHERITED MEMORY	198
XII. INSTINCTS OF NEUTER INSECTS	220
XIII. LAMARCK AND MR. DARWIN	252
XIV. MR. MIVART AND MR. DARWIN	273
XV. CONCLUDING REMARKS	294