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George Jackson Mivart
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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'.

On the Genesis of Species

'A distinguished zoologist, Mr St George Mivart, has recently collected all the objections which have ever been advanced by myself and others against the theory of natural selection, as propounded by Mr Wallace and myself, and has illustrated them with admirable art and force. When thus marshalled, they make a formidable array.' - Charles Darwin, in *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (in its 6th edn, p. 176, published in 1872). St George Jackson Mivart was an eminent biologist, who was at first an advocate for natural selection and later a passionate opponent. In this beautifully illustrated 1871 text, Mivart raised objections to natural selection as a means for evolution. These included problems in explaining: 'incipient stages' of complex structures (e.g. the mammalian eye); the existence of similar structures of divergent origin; dramatic and rapid changes in form; the absence of transitional forms from the fossil record; and issues in geological distribution. Citing the giraffe's neck, the rattle of the snake, the whale's baleen and more, Mivart challenged Darwin's theory and argued for the necessity of an innate power – an intelligence – underlying all organic life. Mivart's book did not seriously undermine the concept of natural selection - Darwin and Huxley soon countered his 'formidable array' of arguments - but it helped move the debate forward. Sadly, it eventually led to a rift between Mivart and Darwin.

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ST GEORGE JACKSON MIVART



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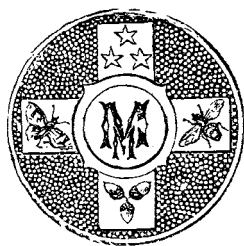
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BY
ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S.

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TO

SIR HENRY HOLLAND, BART., M.D.,
F.R.S., D.C.L., ETC. ETC.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

IN giving myself the pleasure to dedicate, as I now do, this work to you, it is not my intention to identify you with any views of my own advocated in it.

I simply avail myself of an opportunity of paying a tribute of esteem and regard to my earliest scientific friend—the first to encourage me in pursuing the study of nature.

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

Ever faithfully yours,

ST. GEORGE MIVART.

7, NORTH BANK, REGENT'S PARK,
December 8, 1870.

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