Contents

Introduction	ix
Part 1: On the Descent of Man	
Chapter 1: The Evidence of the Descent of Man from some Lower Form	9
Nature of the evidence bearing on the origin of man – Homologous structures in man and the lower animals – Miscellaneous points of correspondence – Development – Rudimentary structures, muscles, sense-organs, hair, bones, reproductive organs, &c. – The bearing of these three great classes of facts on the origin of man	
Chapter 2: Comparison of the Mental Powers of Man and the lower Animals	29
The difference in mental power between the highest ape and the lowest savage, immense — Certain instincts in common — The emotions — Curiosity — Imitation — Attention — Memory — Imagination — Reason — Progressive improvement — Tools and weapons used by animals — Language — Self-consciousness — Sense of beauty - Belief in God, spiritual agencies, superstitions	
Chapter 3: Comparison of the Mental Powers of Man and the lower Animals – continued	56
The moral sense – Fundamental proposition – The qualities of social animals – Origin of sociability – Struggle between opposed instincts – Man a social animal – The more enduring social instincts conquer other less persistent instincts – The social virtues alone regarded by savages – The self-regarding virtues acquired at a later stage of development – The importance of the judgment of the members of the same community on conduct – Transmission of moral tendencies – Summary	al
Chapter 4: On the Manner of Development of Man from some Lower Form	84
Variability of body and mind in man – Inheritance – Causes of variability – Laws of variation the same in man as in the lower animals – Direct action of the conditions of life – Effects of the increased use and disuse of parts – Arrested development – Reversion – Correlated variation – Rate of increase – Checks to increase – Natural selection – Man the most dominant animal in the world – Importance of his corporeal structure – The causes which have led to his becoming erect – Consequent changes of structure – Decrease in size of the canine teeth – Increased size and altered shape of the skull – Nakedness – Absence of a tail – Defenceless condition of man	

Chapter 5: On the Development of the Intellectual and Moral Faculties during Primeval and Civilised Times

123

The advancement of the intellectual powers through natural selection – Importance of imitation – Social and moral faculties – Their development within the limits of the same tribe – Natural selection as affecting civilised nations – Evidence that civilised nations were once barbarous

Chapter 6: On the Affinities and Genealogy of Man

144

Position of man in the animal series – The natural system genealogical – Adaptive characters of slight value – Various small points of resemblance between man and the Quadrumana – Rank of man in the natural system – Birthplace and antiquity of man – Absence of fossil connecting-links – Lower stages in the genealogy of man, as inferred, firstly from his affinities and secondly from his structure – Early androgyngus condition of the Vertebrata – Conclusion

Chapter 7: On the Races of Man

167

The nature and value of specific characters — Application to the races of man—Arguments in favour of, and opposed to, ranking the so-called races of man as distinct species — Sub-species — Monogenists and polygenists — Convergence of character — Numerous points of resemblance in body and mind between the most distinct races of man—The state of man when he first spread over the earth—Each race not descended from a single pair—The extinction of races—The formation of races—The effects of crossing—Slight influence of the direct action of the conditions of life—Slight or no influence of natural selection—Sexual selection.

Part 2: Sexual Selection

Chapter 8: Principles of Sexual Selection

197

Secondary sexual characters – Sexual selection – Manner of action – Excess of males – Polygamy – The male alone generally modified through sexual selection – Eagerness of the male – Variability of the male – Choice exerted by the female – Sexual compared with natural selection – Inheritance at corresponding periods of life, at corresponding seasons of the year, and as limited by sex – Relations between the several forms of inheritance – Causes why one sex and the young are not modified through sexual selection – Supplement on the proportional numbers of the two sexes throughout the animal kingdom – On the limitation of the numbers of the two sexes through natural selection

Chapter 9: Secondary Sexual Characters in the Lower Classes of the Animal Kingdom

253

These characters absent in the lowest classes – Brilliant colours – Mollusca – Annelids – Crustacea, secondary sexual characters strongly developed; dimorphism; colour; characters not acquired before maturity – Spiders, sexual colours of; stridulation by the males – Myriapoda

Chapter 10: Secondary Sexual Characters of Insects

260

Diversified structures possessed by the males for seizing the females – Differences between the sexes, of which the meaning is not understood – Difference in size between the sexes – Thysanura – Diptera – Hemiptera – Homoptera, musical

powers possessed by the males alone — Orthoptera, musical instruments of the males, much diversified in structure; pugnacity; colours — Neuroptera, sexual differences in colour — Hymenoptera, pugnacity and colours — Coleoptera, colours; furnished with great horns, apparently as an ornament; battles; stridulating organs generally common to both sexes.

Chapter 11: Insects, continued. Order Lepidoptera

305

Courtship of butterflies – Battles – Ticking noise – Colours common to both sexes, or more brilliant in the males – Examples – Not due to the direct action of the conditions of life – Colours adapted for protection – Colours of moths – Display – Perceptive powers of the Lepidoptera – Variability – Causes of the difference in colour between the males and females – Mimickry, female butterflies more brilliantly coloured than the males – Bright colours of caterpillars – Summary and concluding remarks on the secondary sexual characters of insects – Birds and insects compared.

Chapter 12: Secondary Sexual Characters of Fishes, Amphibians, & Reptiles 335

Fishes: Courtship and battles of the males — Larger size of the females — Males, bright colours and ornamental appendages; other strange characters — Colours and appendages acquired by the males during the breeding-season alone — Fishes with both sexes brilliantly coloured — Protective colours — The less conspicuous colours of the female cannot be accounted for on the principle of protection — Male fishes building nests, and taking charge of the ova and young. Amphibians: Differences in structure and colour between the sexes — Vocal organs. Reptiles: Chelonians — Crocodiles — Snakes, colours in some cases protective — Lizards, battles of — Orna-mental appendages — Strange differences in structure between the sexes — Colours — Sexual differences almost as great as with birds

Chapter 13: Secondary Sexual Characters of Birds 364

Sexual differences – Law of battle – Special weapons – Vocal organs – Instrumental music – Love-antics and dances – Decorations, permanent and seasonal – Double and single annual moults – Display of ornaments by the males

Chapter 14: Birds, continued

411

Choice exerted by the female – Length of courtship – Unpaired birds – Mental qualities and taste for the beautiful – Preference or antipathy shewn by the female for particular males – Variability of birds – Variations sometimes abrupt – Laws of variation – Formation of ocelli – Gradations of character – Case of Peacock, Argus pheasant, and Urosticte

Chapter 15: Birds, continued

453

Discussion why the males alone of some species, and both sexes of other species, are brightly coloured – On sexually-limited inheritance, as applied to various structures and to brightly-coloured plumage – Nidification in relation to colour – Loss of nuptial plumage during the winter

Chapter 16: Birds, concluded

476

The immature plumage in relation to the character of the plumage in both sexes when adult — Six classes of cases — Sexual differences between the males of closely-allied or representative species — The female assuming the characters of the male — Plumage of the young in relation to the summer and winter plumage of the adults — On the increase of beauty in the Birds of the World — Protective colouring — Conspicuously-coloured birds — Novelty appreciated — Summary of the four chapters on birds

Chapter 17: Secondary Sexual Characters of Mammals 519
The law of battle – Special weapons, confined to the males – Cause of absence of weapons in the female – Weapons common to both sexes, yet primarily acquired by the male – Other uses of such weapons – Their high importance – Greater size of the male – Means of defence – On the preference shewn by either sex in the pairing of quadrupeds.
Chapter 18: Secondary Sexual Characters of Mammals, continued 546
Voice – Remarkable sexual peculiarities in seals – Odour – Development of the hair – Colour of the hair and skin – Anomalous case of the female being more ornamented than the male – Colour and ornaments due to sexual selection – Colour acquired for the sake of protection – Colour, though common to both sexes, often due to sexual selection – On the disappearance of spots and stripes in adult quadrupeds – On the colours and ornaments of the Quadrumana – Summary
Chapter 19: Secondary Sexual Characters of Man 578
Differences between man and woman — Causes of such differences and of certain characters common to both sexes — Law of battle — Differences in mental powers — and voice — On the influence of beauty in determining the marriages of mankind — Attention paid by savages to ornaments — Their ideas of beauty in woman — The tendency to exaggerate each natural peculiarity
Chapter 20: Secondary Sexual Characters of Man, continued 609
On the effects of the continued selection of women according to a different standard of beauty in each race — On the causes which interfere with sexual selection in civilised and savage nations — Conditions favourable to sexual selection during primeval times — On the manner of action of sexual selection with mankind — On the women in savage tribes having some power to choose their husbands — Absence of hair on the body, and development of the beard — Colour of the skin — Summary
Chapter 21: General Summary and Conclusion 632
Main conclusion that man is descended from some lower form – Manner of development – Genealogy of man – Intellectual and moral faculties – Sexual selection – Concluding remarks
Appendix A: Preface to the Second Edition 649
Appendix B: Postscript 651
Appendix C: Errata 653
Index 655