



# The Old Faith and the New A Confession

David Friedrich Strauss



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1873 edition. Excerpt: ...the arbitraryinterference of man, by pairing specimens which answer his purposes, and preventing their intercrossing with others. Man by artificial selection, produces varieties in regard to which it at last becomes a mere dispute about words to refuse recognition as new species: if something similar to this selection could be proved to have taken place in the domain of unfettered Nature, we should see our way to explain the ramification of organic life into the diverse forms and species that we have before our eyes. 54. Is there, then, something in Nature causing the variations which have arisen in generations of plants and animals to be preserved and increased? causing, further, as a consequence of this, not all equally, but chiefly only certain specially organized individuals, to propagate themselves in the course of generations? and where are we to ask for this principle, this universal leaven? The direction in which the Englishman searched for and found this is very characteristic. He was under no necessity to search for it at all, as everywhere in his native land he saw around him energetic industry, and the astonishing effects of his principle. He only needed to transfer competition from the world of man into the household of Nature. Darwins Struggle for Existence is nothing else but the expansion of that into a law of Nature, which we have long since recognized as a law of our social and industrial life. We see organic beings possessing the impulse and capacity to produce a far greater number of offspring than can in the long run find adequate subsistence. Not only is there competition between animals for the pasture, but even between grapes and trees for the soil and the sun. If all cannot subsist, but only some, ...

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