

MIND IN NATURE. 1887

Principal Dawson's Crozer Lectures Drawing to a Close.

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Principal J. W. Dawson, LL.D., F. R. S., of Montreal, delivered yesterday the last but one of the lectures for which the wealthy cotton manufacturer of Chester, Mr. Samuel A. Crozer, has provided by a handsome endowment in connection with Crozer Seminary. The character of the audiences attracted by these masterly performances of Dr. Dawson has more than once been noticed, and yesterday's large gathering, which completely filled floor and balcony at Association Hall, again presented an imposing array of lawyers, physicians, ministers, merchants, teachers and professors, accompanied by ladies of the highest education, intelligence and refinement.

It was an audience of readers and thinkers, and the lecture—to which, it is to be deplored, that more extended space cannot be given—was, in every respect, worthy of their closest attention. To-day the last lecture of the course is to be delivered, and those who have not yet had an opportunity of hearing Dr. Dawson should, by no means, suffer this occasion to pass by unimproved. Rev. Dr. George Dana Boardman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, in this city, the gentleman to whose wise suggestion is attributable the decision in favor of having the Crozer lectures this year delivered in Philadelphia, instead of in the rural solitudes of Delaware county, will, it is understood, offer to-day resolutions substantially identical with the following, which will, no doubt, be unanimously adopted:

"We, citizens of Philadelphia and vicinity, do hereby express our grateful recognition of the munificence of Mr. Samuel A. Crozer in founding a Christian Lectureship in connection with Crozer Theological Seminary, and also of the thoughtfulness of the authorities of the institution in arranging to have the lectures delivered in the city of Philadelphia.

"We do also hereby express our grateful and admiring appreciation of the course delivered by Principal J. W. Dawson, LL.D., F. R. S., by a course marked by wealth of scientific erudition, originality of thought, calmness of reasoning, clearness of statement and reverence of sentiment."

In tracing the evidences of mind in nature, Dr. Dawson first adverted to the laws of crystallization in mineral substances as showing design, and then passed to consider the laws that, as he happily expressed it, governed the crystallization of the atoms of albumen in the ovum into a living creature of the particular species to which the ovum belongs. He glanced briefly also at the evidences of intentional correlation in the coal measures, wherein the light and heat of the sun had been stored up ages ago in vast masses of decayed vegetation for the use of mankind in warming and lighting their habitations, and generating steam power and electricity. "If nature did all that," the lecturer remarked, "nature is certainly a very wonderful goddess.

He next referred to the curious numerical relations in animal structure, such as the five digits of man, the four rays of the star fish, the six tentacles of coral animals, observing that the decimal adjustment governed humanity in mathematical science to an unsuspected extent. He traced further evidences of design in various microscopic animalculæ in the wonderfully ingenious and varied arrangement for enabling certain creatures of the seas, the nautilus, violet snail, Portuguese man-of-war and others, to float through the water at will, and told an amusing story of how the Duke of Argyll, "a wily politician," was humbugged and defeated by the instinct of a wild duckling which he was hunting, and which took refuge among the rock on the shore till it could seize its opportunity to scuttle off to sea again.

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