

A LECTURE in aid of the Building Fund of the Young Men's Christian Association, Toronto, was delivered by Principal Dawson, of Montreal, on Friday, the 23rd December last, in the Music Hall, Toronto. The subject was "The Dawn of Animal Life on our Planet." The lecture was most interesting and instructive, and though necessarily a scientific one, involving a great amount of research and thought, was listened to with unwearied attention by a highly intelligent and appreciative audience, owing not only to its intrinsic worth, but also in no small measure to the clear style and animated delivery of the learned Principal, who evidently aimed at making himself understood by the meeting, and for that purpose availed himself of the assistance of drawings and specimens of the remains of several fossilised animals.

The lecturer slightly referring to some of the later strata of the earth's crusts, spoke principally of the Primary Rocks, those that were called Azoic, as it was believed when so named, that no traces of life were to be found in them, but which are now more correctly styled Eozoic, further and more correct investigations having shown that they as well as the later rocks are the sepulchres of extinct generations of animals who lived and died many thousands of years ago. As the audience followed the lecturer while he described the Laurentian formation, and the influential fact that it too, seemed to have been formed from even older materials, they were convinced that our Mother Earth is an old lady—old, very old indeed, although when decked out in her May and June adornments, she seems ever fair and young.

It was gratifying to find that Dr. Dawson is a firm believer in the Mosaic account of the Creation, that he does not adopt the development theories which at the present day have so many adherents and advocates. He showed, among other circumstances which prove the falsity of the doctrine, that the animals which may have been, probably were, at "the dawn of animal life on our planet," certainly which were amongst its earliest inhabitants, have their successors, most probably by generation, at the present day, and these successors have not improved on their progenitors, nay, if any thing, they have degenerated from their fossilized ancestors, and he proved that a similar state of things is shown in many other species of animals, thus evidencing that deterioration of species, is to say the least, as likely as development into higher organizations. The lecturer gave strong proofs that the absurd and debasing doctrine that the human being is a gradual development from the mere brute creation is as unlikely as it is untrue. When the Almighty made man, he took fresh earth for the operation, he built a new house out of new materials for the lodging place of the breath of life, which he put into Adam's nostrils when he made him a living soul. We recognize the brutes as the works of the Divine Being, they as well as man having sprung from the great Creator's hand, but they are not bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, they are our fellow tenants of this wide world that they as well as we occupy, but they are not our blood relations, although a vestral philosophy would fain have them so.

Churchhill.—CHURCH REOPENING.—On Sabbath the 8th inst., the Congregational Church, Churchill, Esquimaux, was reopened for worship, after having undergone considerable improvements. Three sermons were preached by the Revds. L. Thurston, (ME.) J. Tovell, (Wes.) and the Pastor.