

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

THE FOURTH WEEK'S INTERESTING FEATURES.

REV. BROTHER POTAMIAN ON "MAGNETS AND MAGNETISM"—RICHARD MALCOLM JOHNSTON ON "THE EVOLUTION OF THE NOVEL"—DR. ZAHM ON "EVOLUTION"—OTHER INTERESTING SUBJECTS BY ABLE LECTURERS.

MONDAY. The fourth week of the Plattsburgh school opened in the most auspicious manner. Monday seeing the highest registration of the season so far. The registration of the week was delivered by Brother Potamian, of London, on "Magnets and Magnetism."

Doctor Heuser, in his Monday lecture, treated of the various methods of interpretation that are applied to the Bible, and spoke of the means that are to be employed to obtain the true significance of a passage to which various senses are attributed.

"The Evolution of the Novel" formed the subject of Richard Malcolm Johnston's lecture, and he said that nothing like the modern novel was known in the early years of English literature.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I do not think any of us can carry away from the Summer School any specified amount of intellectual advancement. I do not think that any of us can go from the Summer School saying that we have derived this or that intellectual advancement that we can weigh or measure."

Doctor Zahm, whose appearance was hailed with expressions of great pleasure on the part of the school, after expressing his delight at being again at Plattsburgh, delivered the first of a series of lectures on "Evolution."

Hon. T. J. Gargan of Boston then spoke, concluding his remarks in this manner: "The instruction which we get here, the course of reading towards which it will tend, will make us all better and broader men and women."

TUESDAY. It was announced on Tuesday morning that no less than 114 new students had registered on Monday at the school, those being the highest figures of the session so far.

Abuse of the Bible," saying in substance that it is an instrument of apologetics and in discussion with Protestants who admitted the divinity of Christ and the inspired character of the Sacred Scriptures. The Bible plays a very important part. Whether we are defending our faith against misrepresentation or wish to convince other sincere minds of the justice of the claims which the Catholic Church makes as the only true representative of Christ's divine mission to teach the nations, the Bible is a safe and recognized meeting-ground for a fair discussion of the subject.

Doctor Zahm devoted his lecture to a consideration of agnosticism in its relations with evolution, and said that that system of unbelief is a more popular form of error than monism or scientific atheism, more wide-spread and devastating in its effects.

Brother Potamian's lecture dealt with the molecular theory of magnets, and was made very interesting by illustrative experiments. Doctor Johnston considered the evolution of the English novel, and asserted that the first English fictionist to make use of domestic life was Samuel Richardson, while Henry Fielding was declared to be the father of the modern humorous novel.

"I do not know that I can say to you any word more encouraging than to give my feelings, and also the conviction that has come to me whilst here. I have said to myself: Where is the soul or the heart, it matters not in what circumstances or associations they move, that cannot find influences that will cheer them and give them courage to go forth in their work, finding in it greater rest and also a purer and better joy and happiness?"

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the Catholic Summer School—we all know that believing in the religion which makes every man equal in the sight of God—we can not fail to recognize the principles of the constitution of the United States, which declare that every man shall be equal in the sight of man."

Doctor Zahm continued, on Wednesday, his lectures on "Evolution," quoting from SS. Gregory and Augustine's writings to show that they entertained certain evolutionary theories and possessed as comprehensive a view of nature as modern scientists. He also stated the position held by St. Thomas on the subject, and then said: "In the beginning, God created primordial matter, which was actuated by various substantial forms. With the elements thus created were associated certain physical forces, and the various compounds which subsequently resulted from the action of these forces on the diverse elements created were the product of generation and not of creation. There was development, evolution, under the action of second causes, from the simplest elements to the highest inorganic and organic compounds; from the lowest kinds of brute matter to the highest bodily representatives of animated nature, but there was nothing requiring an uncreative action or extraordinary interventions, except, of course, the human soul."

Doctor Zahm considered in his Thursday lecture what opinions regarding the theories of evolution it was permissible for Catholics to entertain; especially with regard to spontaneous generation and the evolution of man from an animal species. Of the first theory he said that there is no evidence of such generation ever having taken place; though that fact, he added, does not prove its impossibility. Should such evidence be forthcoming, he claimed that its discovery would not contravene revelation or militate against the accepted doctrines of the Church. On the other question, the evolution of the human body from an animal species, the Doctor quoted from Mivart's "Genesis of the Species," in which it is contended that it is not "absolutely necessary to suppose that any action different in kind took place in the production of man's body from that which took place in the production of the bodies of other animals."

Doctor Heuser's lecture was devoted to a consideration of the present state of the scientific controversies with the accuracy of Scriptural narratives, and he showed how, amid all the theorizing and wrangling of scientific men as to the genuine text of the original Scriptures, the result of philological study went to confirm the substantial integrity of the Latin Vulgate. The speaker vindicated its great superiority over other editions of the Bible, not only on scientific, but on historical ground, as it represents in reality the oldest text revision, and has served as an educating element of primary importance in the Christianizing and civilization of Europe.

The lecturer, after defining the position and attitude of the Catholic Church towards verbal criticism of the Bible, explained the various methods of modern research, and showed what immense service had been rendered in separate fields by men like Delibzsch and Sayce in demonstrating the truth of the Biblical statements from textual criticism and the tangible facts brought forth by the excavator in Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Palestine and the adjacent countries. Brother Potamian, in his lecture, claimed for Gilbert of Colchester the credit of first advancing the theory that the earth is a great magnet, and he adduced several reasons in support of that theory. Thackeray was the subject of Colonel Johnston's discourse.

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