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OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING OF
THE BIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
DECEMBER 19, 1889.

ADDRESSES BY THE PRESIDENT, THE MINISTER
OF EDUCATION, PROF. RAMSAY WRIGHT, PROF.
OSLER, PROF. WELCH, AND PROF. MINOT.

Sir Daniel Wilson, who was received with applause, said,—It is my pleasant duty to-day to welcome those who join with us in the public opening of these Biological Buildings. It is a very important step, I feel assured, in the history of the advancement of science in our Province and Dominion. It is an index of our share and sympathy in the progress that peculiarly marks the century that is now hastening to its last decade. From the age of the Renaissance this progress has been gradually achieving successive triumphs. That great change which is known familiarly as the renaissance, or new birth, was unquestionably a revolt against mediæval thought, and the grand claim of absolute freedom of research into all truths, of the right to accept of every manifestation of truth that science may reveal to us. Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and other great names, have been succeeded by those of men who have advanced step by step into the higher mysteries of science; and last of all we have had in our own day a great thinker in the department of biology, one who has revolutionized thought, and prepared the way for an entirely new advance in the research for truth. I feel nevertheless bound,

for myself, to affirm that I cannot accept the doctrine of evolution in so far as it assumes, under certain teachers, that mind and thought, intellect, reason, and all upon which our moral sense and the conception of a future life are based, can be conceived of as a mere production of evolution. Nevertheless as students of science, we are bound to sit humbly at the feet of truth. Whatever truths are disclosed to us in the triumphs of science, however for the time being they may seem irreconcilable with other truths, we need have no hesitation in the assurance that one truth cannot conflict with another.

I rejoice in the ample provision that is now in progress for all the departments of science in connection with this University. These buildings furnish somewhat adequate accommodation for the biological and physiological sections of university training; and I welcome the recent addition to our faculty of one who is a specialist in psychology. I have only to add that already contracts have been accepted for a further extension of these buildings; and when the entire plan is carried out it will furnish accommodation for the other branches of science which we recognize as playing an important part in our Faculty or Arts. It is, therefore, with peculiar satisfaction that I now perform the pleasing duty of proclaiming the building dedicated by the University to the use of the biological department of science, open, and devoted to all the special purposes for which it has been constructed.