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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITTHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1897.

### Moses Vindicated.\*

Canada is particularly fortunate in having had for many years at the head of one of its leading universities such an accomplished scientist and devout scholar as Sir J. William Dawson. His great attainments and original investigations in geology command the respect of the scientific world. By his biblical scholarship and Christian faith he is able to interpret the teachings of science in harmony with Scripture. There is need for such an interpreter and mediator. "The advanced evolutionists and the advanced critics," he says, "have long since

\* "Eden Lost and Won. Studies of the Early and Final Destiny of Man as Taught in Nature and Revelation." By Sir J. William Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., etc. New York, Chicago, and Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company, and Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, \$1.25.

united their forces, and true Christianity and true science are now face to face with both. . . The observation and study of fifty years," he adds, "have shown me the rise and fall of several systems of philosophy and criticism, and the Word of God still abides and becomes wider in its influence."

In this volume Sir William Dawson discusses some of the vexed questions of the Higher Criticism. He gives good reasons for accepting the Mosaic authorship of the Book of Genesis. He shows that the period of the Hebrew law-giver is that of the culmination of Egyptian art and literature, and is marked by a similar degree of enlightenment in Babylonia, Phoenicia, and Southern Arabia. "Astronomy," he says, "was a very old science at the time of Moses, and is quite able to account for the astronomical references both in Genesis and Job."

Recent discoveries have shown that at the court of Pharaoh correspondence was carried on with all parts of the civilized world, in many languages, and in various forms of writing. The discoveries in the Babylonian Plain have also shown that there existed before the time of Abraham a civilization equally high with that of the early Egyptian dynasties. "No Hebrew writer," Sir William affirms, "down to the time of Solomon, could have had so ample means of writing the early history of the world as those possessed by Moses. Fortunately for the credit of Moses, we now know that the story of creation and the week of seven days, and the pre-eminence of the seventh day, existed long before his time. It is not Egypt, but Chaldea, the native country of Abraham, that has furnished the evidence in the now well-known Creation tablets disinterred from the ruins of the royal library of Assurbanipal, king of Assyria."

The learned author proceeds to point out the remarkable harmony existing between the narrative of Genesis and the most recent discoveries of science, as opposed to the caste system of Egypt and of later Jewish habits of thought. The assertion in the oldest historic document of the race of the unity and equality of man stamps the Scriptures as a Divine revelation.

The author proceeds to discuss the situation of early man and Eden, the antediluvians, the deluge, and the dispersion after that event, as strangely corroborated by the discoveries of archaeology and conclusions of science. He

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