

News, already adopted by several reputable and prominent journals of the country. Further particulars will be given in due time through the advertising columns and otherwise. One feature is this, that every subscriber to the Encyclopedia will obtain membership in the Home University League and receive its publication, *Self Culture*, free of charge. The purpose of this educational institution is to give its members that education they can obtain in their homes, by aiding their investigation of urgent questions and the systematic study of human progress. The advantages of this offer will be better understood when fully explained and they will be found to be more than worth the trifling cost at which they now can be secured.

MAN'S ANCESTORS DISCUSSED.

Some excitement has been caused by the declaration of Rev. Dr. Zahm, professor of physical sciences in the university of Notre Dame, that there is nothing in the Roman Catholic dogma which preclude the view that man is descended from the ape or some other animal. The discussion precipitated by this proposition is likely to be followed with much interest by many who hope to see religion and so-called science reconciled on this subject, and also by those who have already concluded that no reconciliation is possible.

The view advanced by Prof. Zahm is by no means new. Years ago, Pater Hyacinthe, we believe, declared before a large audience in London that the theory of man's descent from an animal was less degrading than the commonly accepted view of his rising into prominence from a lump of clay, and probably some ground would be found on which the difficulties involved in both might be harmonized.

Notwithstanding this, it is safe to say that when the subject shall have been thoroughly investigated without prejudice and with the sole desire to find the truth, it will be evident that the evolution theory, as commonly understood, is insufficient to account for the existence of man on earth. That many statements in the Bible, and notably those relating to the creation, have been misunderstood and errors perpetrated through wrong translations and fanciful comments is indisputable, but when all these shall have been corrected, the fact remains, according to the Bible, that the human family has a divine origin. A compromise denying this truth is impossible.

Science will yet have to admit, that as far as known, everything that exists is the result of some intelligence working according to certain laws. Not that these laws themselves are the creating force, but the rules in accordance with which that power operates. In viewing a modern musical instrument, the piano, for instance, it is evident that a wonderful evolution has taken place from the ancient lute with its few strings and simple construction. But it is equally evident that every intermediate stage marks the thoughts and ideas of the intellect to which this development is due. In the same way, not only man but every living species, and

all that exists, is the handiwork of Divine Intelligence. When science is prepared to recognize this fact, it will be in perfect accord with religion, and further advancement in knowledge will be possible.

PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

At a time when the interests of mankind apparently center around questions of a secular nature and nearly everybody is drawn with irresistible force towards the circle of the seething, boiling, roaring, all-engulfing maelstrom of political or economic controversies, it is refreshing to notice that some still find time for a calm discussion of topics bearing on the moral and eternal well-being of the human race. The great congress of religion and education, convened at Toronto, July 18, is an expression of the deeply felt need of the age for some safe harbor against the dangers with which it is confronted.

This congress is a natural outgrowth of the parliament of religions held in Chicago in 1893. Its object is to bring all who are interested in the spread of religion into a closer association, one with another, and into sympathetic relationship in all the great educational, philanthropic and reform movements of modern Christianity. It is in harmony with the spirit of fraternal good-fellowship now manifested in most religious denominations in the world, and recognizes the necessity of a union between the world's spiritual and intellectual forces. It is a recognition of principles prominently set forth in the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that unity is the law of creation and growth; that faith is proven by works; that true religion is to be and to do—in a word it would make religion the most practical and most comprehensive factor in human life and the world's progress.

Secretary Sberlin, of the congress, says:

If we fail to get all people to agree as to what Jesus Christ taught and said, we hope to get them to join in doing things He did. Our purpose is to bring together prominent, learned people from among clergymen, philanthropists, educators and statesmen, of all countries in the two Americas, to consider the great social, economic and moral problems pertaining to human society, to develop fraternal feelings, eliminate prejudice and hate from people having different creeds, but the same humanity, and if we fail to bring them into one church and under one creed, we aim to bring them into one state of fraternal feeling toward each other. The great question how to repress evil, eliminate want and distress from humanity, care for the dependents and deficient in mind and body and develop the good, are among the questions to be considered. The best methods of conducting public charities, hospitals, asylums and orphanages and needed improvements in the service of such will be discussed, and practical Christianity in all its phases.

In accordance with this program the congress will be divided in sections for the discussion of education, philanthropy, temperance, woman's work, editors and authors, Sunday schools, missions, etc. Prominent men and women of different denominations have

agreed to deliver lectures and read papers on these subjects.

The movement in the Christian world for union is one of the great signs of the times. It is spreading with rapidity throughout the earth. The Protestant churches in this country, as well as in Europe are ripe for co-operation, for the evident reason, that the impossibility of their present attitude has begun to dawn upon the enlightened minds of all classes of people. The tendency is to come forth from behind the old creeds and dogmas, to rescue religion from its long trance, for the purpose of rendering it an active factor in the world. It is an attempt at resurrection to new life and activity.

Undoubtedly, after a little while similar congresses will be held in different quarters of the globe, and when the work of revival has taken a definite shape, one great lesson will be conveyed to the world—the impossibility of succeeding without direct divine aid, and the result will be, let us hope, a petition of God's children to Heaven for the light of revelation and power from above. Moses needed both for the establishment of the ancient dispensation; Ezra without them could not have re-established that dispensation after the captivity; the new dispensation was not ushered in until communication with heaven was restored; nor can Christians of today revive religion without authority and revelation. It may be in full accord with the divine plan to call to life the crumbling bones in the valley, but an Ezekiel is needed to prophesy to them and call upon them to hear the word of the Lord. By no other means can the scattered forces of sects and churches be saved from their present condition to one of vitality and usefulness in the service of the Master for the good of their fellow men.

BOON FOR THE RAILWAYS.

If the statement regarding the ingenuity of a San Francisco machinist's apprentice be true, an occasion is presented for awakening the gratitude of railway managers. For a long time past the officials of various lines have sought every available device to identify the purchasers of tickets, and thus escape the scalper's shrewdness. The complexion, age, sex, cut of beard, lankness or rotundity of form, and every other description that could be registered on a ticket have been taken to enable conductors to identify the original holder; but still the brokers have done a thriving business, and the railway managers have considered themselves as being fleeced. No successful plan has been adopted to overcome the scalper.

It is now stated, however, that a young man named Julius Gregory has devised a plan and perfected an invention that will be a boon to the passenger departments of railway travel. He has been at the work for two years, and has produced a "photograph-you while-you-wait" apparatus, so that the man who pays for a railway ticket not only gets his money's worth there, but also has a finely finished photograph without which counterpart of himself he will not be on good terms with the conductor. The device is Gregory's