

1028/62/13

Evolution

me

CUS417/62.13

"The Parsonage"

Wexton 19. 10. 76

My dear Osler,

(Miserable!) At last I have got through
Mirak. I have been strongly tempted to
put other things aside to enjoy his thoughts.
My first feeling now is thankfulness to you
for thinking of me at all, then for the kind of
book you selected, what it is & what it leads to
& what it has done respecting my former ideas.
I really esteem your favour most highly &
am very thankful for it. Did it lay in my
power I would gladly return it & will be hap-
py always to acknowledge it.

As to the book itself I look upon the first
Chapters now as the best part of it. To me
they are in the highest degree instructive. That
the ego is questionable from my consciousness
never struck me. Long ago I was of opinion but
did not see how that all that was peculiar
to Adam's man, was the result of the contact
or heating into by the Creator. Now what is but

include revelation; but I do not at present believe what Mirant seems to, that the Ch. is divinely appointed or called to formulate truth, & science, to work up to it. He may not mean this. I may misunderstand him: but it seems like it. What I mean is that believing as I do that the book of Nature & the book of revelation are alike God's books. The one appealing to our sight the other to our hearing, or facts, a correct formula from one will agree in essential principles with a correct formula from the other. There is this difficulty to be met though. If you use the book of Revelation to formulate on the sciences Geology we may say, the formula would be very brief, yet leaving room for all present discoveries or all facts that may ever arise. I suppose a correct formula made first by Geologists, it will not be found to contradict revelation. For the purposes of moral enlightenment it is quite different. Here the formula are very comprehensive.

Mivart's moral consciousness. The first chapters though difficult to master are very important. In the remaining chapters I suppose the very numerous instances brought to prove his points are valtable to those who understand & can appreciate them once, there is more proof than is necessary. but this defence is owing to my ignorance of peculiar points & my being satisfied of the correctness of his argument generally. I must read his "Genesis of species" if I can find it some day. Every thing I see allerts to evolution in some sense, but surely not chiefly by natural selection. The last chapter I would rather had never been added. Mivart's reverence for the Church makes him claim too much for it, at least so it seems to me. I can ~~see~~ believe that devout unbiased monobiblical students from St Aug. to Saurey & to this day if they stated a formula of creation would be compelled to word it ^{so} as to

I agree in every part with experience.
Mirault would have no belief that ^{if} the Pope
expressed a formula on scientific subjects, it would
be found correct. I do not want to deny him.
He may be quite right; but it does not follow
as I think Mirault tries to show that every for-
mula enunciated by the Pope must be cor-
rect because the Pope is the divinely appointed
for that purpose. I wish the last chapter had
been left out.

Do like a good fellow try to make my peace
with kind Mr. Francis. I longed to be down & then
to get down to Montreal but really it was too ex-
pensive. Hoping to get down I delayed answer-
ing her, until I was ashamed to. Jimmy has gone
to London Hospital & friends with Dr. Cook of local
ministry. I see Dawson of MonE is an agent for
Corkes plates. If you think of it look at the four
on comparative Anatomy & tell me what you think
of them. Everything flat & calm here, from the
weather to the Village. My best wishes for you
If any one is coming up send me something inter-
esting for the Microscope. I am all alone as usual
but have ^{an} invaluable woman keeping house for me.
Yours very affectionately, M. A. Johnson