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WHOLE No. 68.

WHICH ARE HIGHER, MEN OR AN-. GELS? BY REY JE PRESSLY, D D.

CODDLE CREEK, N. C.

We have been thinking a good deal recently about both men and angels. With prayer . for direction the conclusion reached is, that man is higher in position, honor and privilege than angels. After some thought and research it might be safe before joined with the Divine person only settling down to say something |-two natures and one person. about our first impressions. As the Hence, in the epistle of Hebrews it foundations are now being tampered is said, more literally as the Holy wish blindly, not to comply with ham he taketh hold." what we solemnly promised when ordained, namely, that we would any supposed number of angels, and

1610.

very important one, though some being brought may think it a quiddity not deserving attention. When we sat down to write it was simply to bring the enquiry to view. But down, we often have but little idea what the trembling mountain will bring forth -a rediculous mouse or a roaring, rumbling, dashing train of cars with its puffing, smoking engine and screaming whistle. We believe man is higher than angels, because

(1) He was so made at his creation. When this was done, God as the Divine Three in unity, said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Such an image and likeness would, of course, be higher, nearer and more like God than any angel he ever made. So man was made as the Trinity proposed.

Angels were never made so near to God in their creation, neither, were they made with the power of pro-creation, and hence have never increased since made directly by God. Man was so made, and thus through him the habitable earth was to be filled with human beings. So it was that this wonderful world was to be for thousands of years a place; where would be developed the most amazing possibilities and the most gracious and glorious results.

We believe man higher, as appears in connection.

(2) With his being involved in the sin of Adam and its causal and occasioned results.

As to liability everything threatened was deeply felt to be true. But God opened up a way of deliverance out of the estate of sin and misery to those thus involved, by faith in the promised seed, who as the great an estate of salvation. . .

heaven there was an entirely differgreat plan devised through covenants, promises and oaths. There was no great mystery of God's manifesting himself in the nature of man for redeeming these rebels by his obedience to law, by His suffering and the shedding of blood divine. Nay, verily, the angels thus sinning for thee."-Hosea 2: 20; 3: 3. were driven from their high abode

"Cast down to hell and delivered in- adultry." to chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement." There is not God's people: "Thy maker is thine boc9y . W. M. SMITH. anything about all this which shows husband. The Lord of hosts is his that angels are higher and more name," etc. nearly related to God than man. We believe it because of the divine procedure.

(3) In developing the plan of this salvation. In doing this, the Son of God assumed, another nature conwith all about, we do not wish to Spirit has it: "He taketh not hold fall into a Briggsism; neither do we of angels, but of the seed of Abra-

The assumption of . humanity by "not follow any divisive courses by their being offered as a sacrifice for complying with the defections," etc. man's benefit, would have been of no Our subject, however, conflicts avail to satisfy divine justice, make very decidedly with what had been reconciliation for iniquity, or procure sung and read in the Bible accord- a righteousness that would secure ing to the authorized version of for man acceptance in God's sight. King James, long before our day. All this, however, and more, was ac-In just about one score of years complished by God's Son taking hold more that version will have existed of the seed of Abraham, thus assumfor three hundred years, or since ing the nature of man, or taking to himself a true body and a reasonable The question of our subject is a soul. We believe it, because of his

(4) Into a union with Christ and close relationships with God, into which it is not posible for angels to be received.

Of Christ and the individual or the church collectively, it is distinctly stated that they sustain to each other the relation of husband and wife, bride and bridegroom Hence, Paul says of believers: "Ye are married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead." Jesus himself assumed Bride and Bridgroom as a title which He bore, and a charactor he sustained to His chosen ones when he asked His disciples: "Can the children of the bridechamber mourn while the bridegroom is with them? The end and object of the union Paul distinctly annouces when he says: "That we should bring forth fruit unto God. Believers are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones, and that he who is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." .

Paul draws at length a parallel between the duties of the marriage relation as subsisting among men, and those we owe to Christ, as the husband of the church; and he adds: "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and his church." Jesus is also the elder brother of believers, and He is not ashamed to call them brethren. Now, is it possible for angels to be received into such a union with Christ and such a close relation with God him-

Again; the Old Testament Scriptures are just as clear on this point as the New Testament. Indeed, they go more into detail about the Redeemer of those the Father gave duties between God as the husband Failure First Night. to Him, would thus bring them into and His people as His bride and wife. He is never unfaithful; she ble source that it was the purpose When angels fell and rebelled in often is. Hence she is represented of a band to mob Whitley on Tuesas put away for unfaithfulness, as a day night but their plans miscarent state of things. There was no forsaken and restored wife. There ried. is also a mutual pledging of faithfulness to each other, when to His had promised to go, but their wives chosen people He says, "I will persuaded them not to go and the even betroth thee unto me in faith- matter was frustrated for that night. fulness. \* \* \* Thou shalt not The Standard believes that one of play the harlot, and thou shalt not the mobbers is now in Concord, if be for another man; so will I also be the insinuating remarks made by a

Hence unfaithfulness or defection day, mean anything.

of light, and were, as Peter says, from God, in the Scriptures is called

But more, Isaiah (54; 5) says to

Here His people are ereminded of the Trinity as the Maker of man; and also when it is said, "Remember thy Creator;" the Hebrew in each place is plural-Makers, Creators. This should impress those in such relationship with God of the importance of faithfulness, and of the relationship as having been originated by thy Triune of God.

It was our desire to assign plain reasons that might be satisfactory about this matter for the people, the readers of the English Bible. What has been written will prepare such for what follows, as four good reasons have been presented, opened and illustrated, if our last argument should be doubted or is unsatisfactory. Finally, we refer the matter, that man is higher than the angels, by appealing

(5) To the umpire-the Hebrew

of the Old Testament. the angels." Here the maker is Jehovah, the first Lord of the Psalm, known in the English by being written in capitals; the person made is man. The word for angels in the original is Elohim, which means God. A form of this very word when used of God as the object of worship occurs about two . thousand times; but it is nowhere else translated angels. The J. M. Odell, word correctly translated angels is D. B. Coltrane, entirely different in the original. In L. D. Coltrane, Book keeper. this great number of references, Robert Young, LL.D., in his Anas lytical concordance, though he goes Capital, all around it in the Psalms, never Surplus, refers to this Psalm and verse.

We have not the revised version of the Bible by the committees of two Continents. They were composed of W. R. Odell. godly, faithful and learned men, and surely would not overlook a matter so very important. There may be a misprint in our Hebrew Psaim book, but we don't think so. We will rest a little while after such hard but profitable work till we hear from some one who has the revised

Col. Polk Better.

Indications now are that Col. Polk will recover from his serious illness, in Washington City.

Busted Wide,

A Federal pensioner, living in this county, has been notified that it is impossible to pay until the treasury has something in it with which to pay. If this Federal pensioner lived in the North he might get it now. But really there is no surprise when a little editor become strapped, but it's awful for Uncle Sam to get on par with us.

The Standard learns from a relia-

Quite a number from Cabarrus passenger of the noon train, Thurs-

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I will be glad to have offers for the storehouse and lot now occupied Dr. Johnson.

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And by the way, Fetzer's is the best place in the State for iced drinks, Soda-water, Lemonade, and such stuff, if you ever drink anything as mild as that, I do occasionally. A man WILL get a little behind on water sometimes, you know.