

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C. SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1893.

RELIGIOUS EDITORIALS FOR SUNDAY.

The foot hath said in his heart, There is no God.—Psalms 14:1.

The Presbyterians in the North are voting upon the heresy of Professors Briggs and Smith. The returns are not quiet but they show that Northern Presbyterians by a great majority reject the false teachings of the betrayers of Christianity and stand by the revealed will of God in the Holy Scriptures.

All systems of theology are liable to perversion and gross abuse. Dishonest men and Biblical cranks carried away by their own conceits may so use the Bible as to build up false and even dangerous doctrines; or they may question the very foundations of revealed truth while pretending to loyalty and honesty of belief.

The teachers and preachers, might safely and frankly have said: "Theology must not be confounded with religion. It is a human product. It deals with many open questions. It is the best way we ever knew of setting forth divine truth. But it is a growing science—always open at the top to the light of heaven. Its theology is revealed only as geology and astronomy are revealed. We discover what we believe are facts and truths of the spiritual order; then we build them into systems of inferences, and these inferences are always subject to correction." They could honestly have said all this; they knew it was true.

The history of doctrine shows there have been many statements of dogma that have been changed, have been modified or rejected by turn.

In searching the Scriptures there is no heresy and no harm. The harm comes in so abusing liberty as to substitute the false for the true, and to seek to destroy the foundations while trying or pretending to build the walls with untempered mortar. There is no liberty threatened when men, ministers of the Gospel, are held responsible for what they teach. While we are hidden by the veil of the Apostle Paul, we are hidden to beware of false teachers and rejectors of the truth. A man may have all liberty in the Church of Christ, but that does not imply all license. No man has any right to play fast and loose with the Scriptures—to make solemn pledges to a body of Christians and break them at his will. He has no right to draw salaries under a profession of loyalty and fidelity and then, to deliberately, systematically, pertinaciously attack the doctrines that are fundamental to the Christian organization he pretends to serve. The man who does such things lowers the fame of his life and tarnishes his own honest name.

Some weeks since we gave a glimpse as to the Apocryphal Gospel and the Apocalypse of the Apostle Peter. Professor Harnack, who now fills the chair once occupied by the eminent Neander in the University of Berlin, has recently published a work on these discoveries of fragments of productions extensively used and often quoted in early Patristic literature. Professor Harnack belongs to the "advanced criticism" of Germany. He is eminent for learning and critical ability. He is so honest as to be qualified as any German can be to speak to the discoveries. We have not seen his book, but have read the conclusions he draws. The findings examined are of the second century, and are simply forgeries, for Peter had been dead probably seventy-five years. Justin Martyr knew of Peter's Gospel, so-called. The fragment does not contain quite a half of the original. Of the Apocalypse there is more than a half. The learned Professor says:

"From a purely literary point of view this is a most interesting document. We see in it the earliest example of that class of literature which finds its classical and complete development in Dante's Inferno, and we can find the predecessor of Virgil and Dante in the Apostle Peter of the beginning of the second century."

It does not harmonize well with the four Gospels of the Bible. Professor Harnack says that it was dependent more or less on the four New Testament narratives, and there can be no doubt that the author of the Peter Gospel used our canonical work for it containing a number of statements from Evangelical history which are not found elsewhere than in the Second Gospel. Reasonably certain, but not to the same extent as is the case in reference to Mark, is the dependence on Matthew. Possibly both Matthew and his volume drew from a common source. Practically the same is the state of affairs in reference to its relation to Luke, which it seems quite certain that the Fourth Gospel was used in this document."

There is no doubt that there is more stringency in the money markets of this country than it has been before for a long time. It is so in all sections. There is great dullness in trade in many places, while the purchase of goods goes on with a heavy hand. The trend of prices is lower. In the South there is not much trade revival and we are not expecting it. While the papers are constantly filled with encouraging accounts of manufacturing development there has

really been but little improvement in products of the farm. The farmers are all working now to make a big crop of cotton to sell at 5 or 6 cents a pound. All can tell in what condition that will leave them.

Some weeks ago the MESSENGER promptly called attention to the proposition of the Governor of Virginia that the Southern Governors should meet at Richmond to consider matters concerning their respective States. Yesterday the MESSENGER published the letter of Governor McKimney inviting the Governors of South Carolina to meet on 12th April to discuss immigration. Superintendents of Agriculture and Horticulture and Immigration bureaus are also invited. Of course the invitation will be accepted and we shall be pleased if the consultation results in benefit to our section of the vast country. The South needs educated, industrious, reputable immigrants, but it needs none of those races that is a disturber or is ridden by communistic and dynamic principles.

AN HISTORIC ERROR CORRECTED.

One of the most enjoyable of American writers in the past was Henry Reed, of Philadelphia. His lectures upon English History as set forth in Shakespeare's Historical Plays are delightful. His "Lectures on English Literature" are equally as entertaining and readable. His brother wrote a small volume known as "The World Essays" that is a fascinating and ever brilliant collection of papers—first collected for the New York World, and hence the title. It was published by the North Carolina firm in New York in the past, E. J. Hale & Son. Hon. William H. Reed was the author. Reading one of Henry Reed's lectures on "English Literature" we were surprised to find an error that abounds. We were surprised to find so scholarly and accomplished a writer falling into it.

On page 177 he gives Edmund Spenser's dedication of his magnificent poem, "The Fairy Queen," in which Elizabeth is mentioned as Queen of England, France, and Ireland, and Virginia. Reed capitalizes the last word. He then adds, by way of exclamation: "Yes, there stands the name of that honored State; and while there is many a reason for the lofty spirit of her sons, the pulse of their pride may beat higher at the sight of the record of the 'ancient dominion' on the first page of the Fairy Queen. The poet placed it there as a tribute to her from whom the name was taken, and also to the gallant enterprise of Raleigh and his adventurous followers."

If the "sons" of Virginia are as well informed in their country's history as men of "lofty spirit" should be, they will smile at the error of the amiable and admirable Pennsylvania essayist, and will find in Spenser's "dedication" no special reason why "the pulse of their pride" should "beat higher at the sight of the record." North Carolina is really more concerned in the dedication of the immortal poem than Virginia is. What are the facts?

North Carolina received the impress of the first English foot that ever touched the shores of our vast country. On July 4th, 1584, twenty-three years before Jamestown, in the now State of Virginia, was settled, Sir Walter Raleigh's two vessels, under the command of Philip Amund and Arthur Barlow, entered the inland sea of North Carolina and landed on the island of Wokoken, when they formally took possession of the country in the name of Queen Elizabeth. They also visited Granganemo, an Indian chief who resided on Roanoke Island. Upon the return of the expedition to England, the navigators gave a very engaging and glowing description of the new land. According to them it was inhabited by people, who under the rich coloring of their poetic fancy, "lived after the manner of the Golden Age." The Virgin Queen was so enraptured by the gorgeous picture in which the scenes, Arcadian pleasures, dreamy tranquillity and guileless innocence were happily blended, that she signalled the success of the expedition by bestowing upon the new land of flowers and birds, of vines and fruits, a name that should express her maiden state. She called the whole country from New Foundland to the Cape Fear river, Virginia.

Afterwards, in the reign of James I, in 1607, the country lying between the Hudson river and New Foundland was called North Virginia. Whilst the country lying between the Cape Fear and Potomac rivers was called South Virginia. At a later time, the colony that first settled on the James river appropriated to itself exclusively the name of Virginia, which is retained to this day.

So the Virginia of our time has scarcely as much to do with the "Fairy Queen," as North Carolina has if Professor Reed is correct that the "dedication" was intended to be "a tribute" in part "to the gallant enterprise of Raleigh and his adventurous followers," and in so much as his two captains confined their explorations to North Carolina. Mr. Reed does not seem to have known how vast the territory was that received in the beginning the name of Virginia.

SHARPS AND FLATS.

It is to be hoped that the Quarantine Conference held in Washington will result in good to the country. The South is always in danger of the yellow fever, and unless anticipations are unfulfilled cholera will visit our shores before the summer ends. There is the greatest need of all possible precautions, and it is both necessary and wise that every city and town throughout the country should be put in the best condition of cleanliness that industry and sanitary science can accomplish. Begin now.

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Miss Margaret S. Driscoll, is one of the many Southern female writers of fiction who have succeeded in finding publishers. She has recently published a volume called "Perchance to Dream and Other Stories." She is said to draw well the negro and paints war times graphically. Some writer says of her that in her stories "are clever little sketches of the humanities in varying phases, frivolous, pathetic, tragic, cynical, which show a faculty at once naive and observant."

This reminds us of what Mr. Chatto, of the firm of Chatto & Windis, noted London book publishers, says—that of every hundred novels written by amateurs not more than three are ever published. To show what a passion, a mania for novel writing now prevails, his firm in 1892, received 663 novels in manuscript.

Victor Hugo's literary remains unpublished are represented to be enormous. They consist of poems, plays, letters, etc. A volume of verse will soon appear and much more to come.

In an article on Thackeray some little while ago, the intelligent reader will recall an earnest denial as to the cynicism and harshness of the great author, insisting as to the great tenderness and goodness of his heart. Since then Mr. George Augustus Sala, a well known journalist and literator, of London, has written much that is interesting and very pleasant of Thackeray whom he knew quite intimately. In the London Telegraph, recently Mr. Sala says something that will make the lovers of Thackeray thank him, for they confirm both the nobility and sweetness of the great satirist's nature and character. We take here and there a few sentences: "He was unwaveringly and invariably truthful; he was kind, compassionate, charitable, and, to the best of my belief, strongly imbued with religious principle and sentiment."

We referred to the edition of Scott's novels edited by Andrew Lang. It costs \$40,000 to illustrate it. Celebrated French and English artists are of the number who did the work. It is to be completed in forty-eight volumes, two volumes a month, each \$2.50. Half leather, with fifty additional illustrations, \$5 per volume. Estes and Lauriat, Boston, are the publishers.

We keep a close lookout for Southern writers. In a late number of the excellent Washington Evening News there was a large wood cut of Miss Molly Elliott Seawell, a Virginian author who gives token of such gifts as will bring her fame and shepherds. She wrote a year ago an article in the N. Y. Critic that provoked much discussion. It was "On the Absence of the Creative Faculty in Women." The Critic says no other of its essays ever attracted so much attention. She had written much before including novels, but unfortunately failed to sign her name and thus advertise herself. She has dramatized one of her stories, "Maid Marian," and Rosina Vokes played the leading character. The Evening News says: "She was born and spent her childhood in Virginia—in Gloucester, one of the oldest counties—and she comes from one of the oldest families in the State. It was a family noted for ability and strength of character, and something, no doubt, of Miss Seawell's success, is due to her hereditary advantages. Her father, by the way, was nephew of President Tyler, whose sister was her grandmother. "Her people were 'landed gentry.' They suffered with their kind through the civil war, but their habitation was so isolated from the modern world that as a young girl Miss Seawell was not subjected to many of the effects wrought by the changed conditions of life in the South."

She is described as unusually modest and yet with all needed courage of conviction. She is thought by Mr. Walsh, editor of Lippincott's, to resemble Jane Austen more than any other writer. She is a great lover of that noted English novelist in the west and does not care much for modern novels. She greatly admires Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," and Sheridan's comedy "The Rivals."

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SNAIPS. Some of the editors are "getting there." The Tories are miserable again—the Grand Old Man is getting well. Carlisle's financial plans are said to look to an entire reorganization. Senator Roach, Democrat, from North Dakota, is charged with embezzlement, but he will hang on to the last all the same. Abe Lincoln had no religion. It's law partner, Herndon, says he was an infidel, and so Robt Ingersoll says. He was murdered in a theatre.

Pittsburg Dispatch, (Rep.) objects to an ex-Confederate in either army or navy. The fools still live in iron-bound and purple-ridden Pennsylvania. The Washington News says: "The ex-office holders here have having a good time in Washington. They merely want to thank Mr. Cleveland for past favours." Mr. Cleveland is disappointed. He can not have his own way in the U. S. Senate. A majority of the Committee on Finance favor free silver coinage.

Ingalls indorses Cleveland's course as to Hawaii. "He is in danger of receiving an appointment. Gresham agreed as to one point and bidd him at the very top in the succession." Tourgee is again trying to fire the Northern mind with a two-column screed in the Chicago Inter-Ocean. He has nigger on the brain. He is the last of the agitators and howlers except Herbert's friend Shepard, Chandler, Hoar and Lodge.

Dr. Parkhurst has his place in the New York papers day after day as the crusader against the vice of the metropolis—does this man know anything of the people of some Northern city, comes away dazzled by its splendor, enthralled by its magnificence. [Let us thank God that in our smaller, humbler sphere of life we are spared any experience of its darker side.—Charlotte Observer.] We are glad to see that the students at the State University are taking a deeper interest in the history of North Carolina. The establishment of the Chair of History at that famous institution in 1890 was a move in the right direction. There are many thrilling, romantic incidents connected with the history of our State, but the younger generation is comparatively unacquainted with them because the State has as yet failed to produce its historians. Virginia has produced North Carolina's Golden Age of glory and the Mecklenburg Declaration is sneered at as a myth because the immortal document was not preserved as originally penned. We have failed to honor our heroes and patriots with monuments and shafts because we have taken no pride in state history and are unacquainted with their achievements. Prof. Battle is rendering the State noble service by inspiring her sons with a more thorough investigation principle and study of State history.—Mauston Union and Chief.

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