

tures. It will eliminate errors only. The Scriptures need not the claim of inspiration to maintain the place they have held. The story they tell is imbedded in literature from the first century, corroborated by monarchs, woven into legislation, symbolized in sacrament and perpetuated in customs, that tell their origin. Modern science has not forced on the Scriptures a solitary change. Reference was then made to the effects on faith of the recent discussions touching protoplasm, spontaneous generation, the physical basis of mind, evolution and the origin of man, and most conclusive quotations were given from the leading scientists of Europe proving that not one of their doctrines had been established on a scientific basis yet, but that the failures of proof had been lamentable and the doctrines utterly discredited." In a word the discussions had been of incalculable value to the faith of the Christian. The close of the lecture was an enthusiastic defence of the utmost freedom of thought, provided it was really a reverent search after truth. The age demands it, and it is an eminently practical age, always pleased with success. It will sift the chaff from the wheat; it may shorten our creeds. Our land is especially exacting, and he who is hawking doubtful wares had better find a more credulous market. Freedom and Christianity are one and inseparable. Christ came to set the captive free, free in soul, body and spirit. "His name is in the ascendant, and if our light be not darkness itself towards it the world gravitates. It draws all men to it, and in its triumphs may be seen what gives hope to the down-trodden, purity to mortals, simplicity to faith, freedom and vitality to thought, fervor and love to religion, a sweeter earth and a nearer heaven."

THE reigning beauties of England are daughters of clergymen.

A FRENCH priest, who had usually a very small congregation, was one day preaching at the church in his village, when the doors being open, a gander and several geese came stalking up the middle aisle. The preacher, availing himself of the circumstance, observed that he could no longer find fault with the people of his district for non-attendance; because, though they did not come themselves, they sent their representatives.

✦ Clippings.

Two Irishmen, in crossing a field, came in contact with a donkey who was making day hideous with his unearthly braying. Jemmy stood a moment in astonishment; but turning to Pat, who seemed as much enraptured with the song as himself, remarked—"It's a fine large ear that bird has for music, Pat, but sure he has an awful cowl."

A YOUNG man dressed in the height of fashion and with a poetic turn of mind was driving along a country road, and gazing at the pond which skirted the highway, said, "Oh, how I would like to lave my heated head in those cooling waters." An Irishman overhearing the exclamation, immediately replied. "Bedad, you might lave it there and it wouldn't sink."

THE PARABLE OF THE GRIND.—Hear the Parable of the Grind. Now there was a certain Grind, who boasted himself to be somebody, for he labored from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, insomuch that all men marveled at him. And there was a certain cribber sitting afar off, who toiled not, neither did he spin, and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed in cheek like his. Now it came to pass that the Proph would question them betimes, asking them many and strange things, desiring to put them to the test. And the Grind was confused, and his knees quaked, and his lips clave to the roof of his mouth, for his memory failed him and he was N. G. But the Cribber, being questioned, did privily dispose his cribs in sundry sacred places, and casting his eyes upon them from time to time, made answer boldly. For he was wiser in his generation than the children of light. And after many days the Proph called all who abode with him to account, that he might reward them according to their works. Then spake he unto the Cribber, saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. For thou hast been faithful, lo, these many days." But unto the Grind he said: "Depart thou into outer darkness." And he evil-entreated him, and delivered him unto the Tormenters to be bounced. And great was the bounce thereof.—*Ex.*