

trinal Puritan. In the doctrine of the Sacraments the Confession does not differ a hairbreadth from the doctrine of our Articles and that of the venerable Hooker. In the great doctrines of God, the Trinity and the Person of Christ, it reasserts the doctrines of the ancient creeds, but in a more complete form. The chief difference will be found in the doctrine of the Divine Decrees and the mysteries of the Divine predestination. On these points our Articles are of the type of the more moderate and cautious Augustinianism of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer. The Westminster Confession gives a more scholastic and elaborate presentation, but it is noteworthy that on these points it follows most closely the Irish Articles, whose very wording is largely adopted. Those who talk so superciliously of this historical document ought to read Dean Stanley's eloquent eulogy of it, an expression of admiration all the more remarkable because it proceeds from one who had but scant sympathy with much of its doctrinal teaching. E. V.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES— JANUARY.

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THE present month is quite noticeable for the lunar phenomena presented, and the observer who follows the moon throughout this lunation will be certainly repaid. On the 7th of the month there is an eclipse, interesting on account of the small part of the disc that is immersed in the earth's shadow, about one-sixth; the first contact occurs at 6.47 p.m., and the series of ring-plains that form such prominent features of the moon's south polar regions will be seen, one by one, to be darkened by the umbra. On the 14th, a day be-

fore the last quarter, the moon passes south of Jupiter, both coming to the Meridian at about the same time, five o'clock in the morning. On the 18th the slender crescent of the waning moon, far south, passes below Saturn, and on the 20th the keen observer may get our satellite in the same telescopic field with Mars. The total eclipse of 21st January is, of course, out of our way, but several expeditions have been arranged to go from England to the west coast of India, where the duration of totality will be greatest. It is evident that the interest in phenomena of this kind is far from dying out, when steamship companies make special rates for astronomers and others who wish to journey some thousands of miles to see the sun's corona for about two minutes. Our time will come soon, we can patiently wait till May, 1900, and then arrange for an expedition to the Southern States.

On Jan. 30th about midnight there is an occultation of the Pleiades by the moon, and the only one of the year visible in this locality. Apart from the interest which the motion of the moon has for the mathematician, there is always a field for the amateur to sketch the more prominent features of the disc. At the present time the great observatories of Paris and Mt. Hamilton are making photographs of the moon on an enlarged scale. The reproductions are beautiful, yet one must still feel that the picture is not—the moon. The most perfect photographs fall immeasurably short of the telescopic view, and in many respects are inferior to skilful drawings.

Mercury will be at its greatest elongation west of the sun on the morning of Jan. 28th. The difference is twenty-five degs., but the declination of the planet is far south, consequently it will be low in the horizon and not easily seen. Venus will be