

argument it categorically went through nearly the whole of the impugned extracts. The tone of the arguments being clearly shown in the exordium, which said, "I have no doubt whatever that the canonical books of Scripture do contain errors, and some very grave ones, in matters of fact, and that the historical narratives are not to be depended on as true in all their details. I have never stated this publicly; but surely in this age of critical inquiry every intelligent student of the Scriptures must be aware of the truth of what I say. It is vain to deny what is patent to any careful and conscientious reader who will set himself to compare one passage of Scripture history with another. And I must say I had supposed that there were very few in the present day except in a very narrow school of theology, who would contest this point." The Metropolitan asked Dr. Bleek if he desired to say anything on behalf of Bishop Colenso. Dr. Bleek said he came there for two purposes—first, to protest; and secondly, in the event of their lordships, notwithstanding that protest, assuming jurisdiction, to give notice of appeal. He had no instructions to do anything further. The court then adjourned, and on re-assembling on Nov. 21, the Very Rev. the Dean of Cape Town delivered a long reply. This closed the case. The court then adjourned and re-assembled by notice on Dec. 14, when the suffragan bishops, as assessors, delivered their opinions. The presenting clergy had accused Dr. Colenso of heresy on nine counts. 1. His disbelief in the Atonement. 2. His belief in justification without any knowledge of Christ. 3. His belief in natal regeneration. 4. His disbelief in the endlessness of future punishments. 5. His denial that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God. 6. His denial of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. 7. His denial that the Bible is a true history of the facts which it professes to describe. 8. His denial of the divinity of our blessed Lord. 9. His depraving, impugning and bringing into disrepute the Book of Common Prayer. The Bishop of Graham's Town said he considered all these charges proved, and painful as it was for him to arrive at such a conclusion, he considered that by the false teaching proved against him the Bishop of Natal had wholly disqualified himself for bearing rule in the Church of God, and for the cure of souls therein. The Bishop of the Free State announced that he had come to a similar conclusion. The Court was then adjourned to December 16, when, on its re-assembling, the Metropolitan pronounced judgment, depriving Bishop Colenso of his see, unless on or before the 4th of March next the bishop shall file a full, unconditional and absolute retraction in writing of all the objectionable extracts, in London, or a like retraction by April 16, in Cape Town. Dr. Bleek handed in a protest against the legality of the proceedings and the validity of the judgment, and gave notice of appeal. The Bishop of

Cape Town said he could not recognise any appeal except to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he must require that appeal to be made within fifteen days from that time.

The trial is reported at great length in the Cape papers, the *Argus* appropriating to it no fewer than thirty-six columns. A separate report of the proceedings has also been published which fills 405 pages 8vo.—*Exchange*.

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Recognition of God by the American Constitution.

THE General Assembly of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of the Federal States, at its meeting last year, adopted certain propositions for the recognition of God and His Christ, omitted from the National Constitution as it now stands; and also a removal of all ambiguous phraseology which may seem to recognize Slavery. The Synod's Committee who have the matter in hand were to have met some time last month, for the purpose of opening up a correspondence with the several Churches on the subject. We subjoin the resolution respecting the first and most important part of the question, as given in the *Banner of the Covenant*, which, if agreed to by the other denominations, will be submitted for the consideration of American statesmen:

Whereas, There is a God revealed to man in Holy Scripture as the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Moral Governor of the world: and

Whereas, Nations, as well as individual, are the creatures of his power, the dependents of his Providence, and the subjects of his authority; and

Whereas, Civil Government is an ordinance of God, deriving its ultimate sanctions from his appointment and permission; and

Whereas, It is the duty of all men to acknowledge the true God in all the relations they sustain; and

Whereas, There is no specific mention of the authority of God in the Federal Constitution of the United States of America, the fundamental law of their existence as a nation; and

Whereas, That Constitution and the Government which it organizes and defines are now undergoing the trial of a defensive civil war against a rebellion of a large portion of its own citizens, and for its own national existence; and

Whereas, The exigencies of the war have brought the authorities of the nation, civil and military, subordinate and supreme, to formal recognitions of the being, providence and grace of God and of Jesus Christ His Son, to an extent and with a distinctness such as the country has never witnessed before—therefore,

Resolved (1), That in the judgment of