

List of Agents.

Some of our subscribers send us their subscriptions by registered letter (which means an expense of ten cents), when there is a person in their church to whom they could pay, and who could tell them when their subscription expires. For their benefit we publish the following list of agents:

The Bible as History.

Prof. Charles W. Shields, of Princeton, in an essay, "Does the Bible Contain Scientific Errors?" writes as follows concerning the historical characteristics of Scripture: "The prophets and evangelists were not versed in the art of historiography, and did not write history philosophically, nor even always chronologically. Their narratives have many little seeming discrepancies as to dates, places, names and figures. The line of the patriarchs is yet to be traced, amid conflicting chronologies, with historical accuracy. Persons and events do not always appear to synchronize; as when it is stated in the 'Book of the Kings' that Ahaziah was forty years old on coming to the throne, and in the 'Chronicles' that he was twenty-two years old. The evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the story of the crucifixion of Christ with differing motives and details, which have not yet been fully harmonized. Such things are simply unavoidable in all historical composition. At the present date of antiquarian research, neither the dynasties of the Pharaohs, nor of the Caesars, nor even of the Popes, have been clearly ascertained. No one can read Bossuet's 'Universal History,' or even Bancroft's 'History of the United States,' without losing himself in chronological puzzles. The English historians Clarendon, Neil and Burnet narrate the execution of Charles I. with substantial agreement, but from the most varied dogmatic points of view. There are obvious misprints in some editions of Hallam's 'Constitutional History,' which could not have been in his manuscript. There may be trifling mistakes in some English translations of Neander's 'Church History' which are not in the German, as well as grave misconceptions in some of his critics, which are neither in the English nor in the German. In like manner, as to any supposed inaccuracies in the 'Chronicles' and the 'Gospels' the fair presumption is, that they are not

errors of the inspired text, but mere errors of transcription, errors of interpretation, or, simply, still unexplained difficulties. It is the business of historical criticism to harmonize standard historians, not to impeach them; and thus far such criticism, as applied to the sacred historians, instead of impugning the scientific accuracy of Holy Scripture, has only confirmed it by unexpected coincidences and ever-growing certitude."—November Century.

A Sign of the Times.

AN EXTRADORDINARY LETTER READ BEFORE THE NEW YORK PRESBYTERY.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—A matter out of the ordinary routine had to be considered by the New York presbytery at its regular session yesterday. Immediately after the devotional exercises Clerk Alexander read this somewhat remarkable letter:

"HIGHLANDS, N. J., Sept. 29, 1892.—Rev. S. D. Alexander, D. D. Brother: Through you I again respectfully request the Presbytery of New York to remove my name from the roll for the following reasons: While humbly receiving the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as containing the word of God, I decline to subscribe to a merely human dictation, be it so able and so venerable as the Westminster standard. I further decline to be called 'reverend,' as being too much like being called 'rabbi,' against which our Lord expressly enjoined His disciples. Again I decidedly prefer not to be identified with any party or denomination of the followers of Christ. Such names, and the spirit which they engender, seem to me not scriptural, and baneful rather than beneficial. It is sufficient for me to say 'companion of all them that fear God.' Finally I suspect that the world and the visible church are somewhat surfeited with preaching, at least of the prevailing type. As this letter distinctly withdraws my subscription to Westminster standards, it doubtless renders impossible the continuance of my name upon the roll of Presbyterians. While thus terminating my special connection with the Presbyterian denomination, I earnestly pray that the divine head of the church may abundantly bless it with all the denomination of his people, and remain your brother in Christ."

"R. R. PROUDFIT.

"P. S.—I enclose titles in your address simply to do 'as I would be done with.'"

The postscript is explained by the fact that in addressing Dr. Alexander the writer crossed his pen through the "Rev." and "D. D.," after writing them. Dr. Proudfit is a wealthy man, forty-five years old, who resides on a fine estate called Highlands, between Sandy Hook and Seabright.—Pioneer Press.

It beats Jack Frost.

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RUPTURED PERSONS. Read this letter from another Toronto Citizen. To J. Y. Ryan, Truss Manufacturer, Etc., 266 West Queen Street, Toronto, Ontario. DEAR SIR,—I have been ruptured about thirty-three years. My sufferings during that time have been intense and can only be appreciated by those similarly conditioned. My business as carpenter and joiner (as all know) demands considerable muscular exertion, frequently have I been compelled to quit work, although at the time wearing Trusses made by the most prominent makers. I could not stand erect, and often had to lie down to ease my sufferings. All the Trusses I have worn have been utter failures. It has been one long round of misery and mental anxiety, loss of time and physical torture. About six months ago, I heard of your great success in the treatment of Rupture, etc. The appliance you advertised gave me, I can well remember, a feeling of support never before experienced by me, and has no continued to the present day. I am now comparatively a new man. Previous to this I could not stoop to tie my shoe, no matter what Truss I had on, if I got all Toronto, without my rupture coming out. To add to the difficulty I have suffered with a violent cough for years, but in the face of all this your great appliance has held me up on all the time while doing the hardest work. My two days ago I carried a bundle of green stuff, a top on a two-story building and not a "budge." I never could or dare attempt such a thing before without danger of my life. To crown all, I have worn and continue to wear your appliance with great comfort for all of which I feel deeply indebted to your skillful treatment. Very truly yours, 136 Terlaney St., Toronto. DONALD MCKINNA.

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