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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 Cæsars, 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 His tory' which are not in the German, as 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 disement in THE CANADIA EVANGELIST.

crrors of the inspired text, but mere crors of transcription, errors of transcription, errors of interpretation, or, simply, still unexplained difficulties. It is the husi-ness 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 evergrowing certitude."-November Century.

A Sign of the Times.

EXTRADORDINARY LETTER READ DEFORE THE NEW YORK PRES-BYTERY.

"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 of the Old and New Addition Scitton in Cancontaining the word of God, I decline Scitton in Canaba. Sknd for tion, be it so able and so venerable as CIRCULAR. the Westminister 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 Westminister 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 erise titles in your address simply to do 'as I would be done

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 Scabright.-Pioneer Press.

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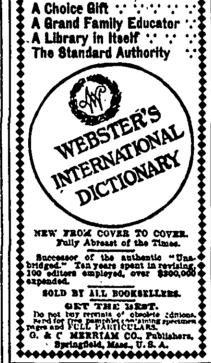
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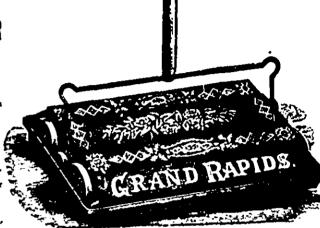
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