

little studied common grace is the foundation stone of anthropology. But for it, man would not be morally and spiritually free, he would be to all intents and purposes a devil, and the world would be a hell. Any doctrine that denies freedom in varying measure, yet a real freedom, in man, denies a fact of experience, divests our race of responsibility, travesties the universal gospel offer, and robs us of the image and likeness of God. There is one only God of the one only universe, and all are His creatures. He is Sovereign therefore, and Dr. Shedd is right in insisting on the sovereignty of God. If the Creator of all suffers limitation, that limitation must be self-imposed. Such limitation God does suffer whenever a devil tempts a soul to evil or a sinner blasphemes His holy name. Christ came into this world and under the power, in a measure, of the prince of this world, to make atonement for our sins, but also to reveal the Father who bears in His embrace all the mystery of iniquity, the loathsome, festering mass of demonic and human corruption, that are repulsive to His holy nature. All things will work together for good, the wrath of man and evil angels shall praise God, a greater good will come out of ill when the probation time is over. But in the meanwhile that the whole creation groans in bondage, the Sovereign Creator does not look coldly on. The Father feels for the children, or Christ would not have wept at the tomb of Lazarus and over a doomed Jerusalem. Throw away your logic, Brother Shedd, for it has been a stumbling block too long, and take to the real facts of revelation and experience. A little less Aristotle and a good deal more of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, may lead you to rewrite your System, and that is a hard thing to do. But if a system is false, however logical, better turn it out than bolster it up. It is marvellous how logical sequence in science, philosophy and theology, has all along been mistaken for truth. The Bible is one of the most illogical, paradoxical books in the world, and therefore the old philosophers despised it. "It has no method" they said, knowing little of God's method. But it has spontaneity, and that is as far above method as life is above death. God is infinite Freedom; how shall man chalk out this path? Johannes Major, in the beginning of the 16th century, was called the last of the Scholastics. He was nothing of the kind. They are living now, and Dr. Shedd unless he mends his ways will deserve a place in their cemetery.

The Rev. John Mitchell, B.D., who left us in '81, and who has now an important charge in the old cathedral city of Chester, England, sends Mr. G. Bertin's paper on "The Races of the Babylonian Empire." It is accompanied with a plate of fifteen profiles from the Assyrian and Babylonian monuments. The third of these represents Kammarabi the king of Babylon, who introduced the worship of Merodach, or Baal Peor, to the valley of the Euphrates, and in whose portrait Professor Coussirat finds a striking resemblance to a well-known member of the Montreal Presbytery.