

the fabric built upon them will look down for ages on the floating wreck of many a modern and boastful theory. It is difficult to see anything but infatuation in the destructive temperament which leads to the notion that to substitute a blind mechanism for the hand of God in the affairs of life is to enlarge the scope of remedial agency; that to dismiss the highest of all inspirations is to elevate the strain of human thought and life; and that each of us is to rejoice that our several units are to be disintegrated at death into "countless millions of organisms": for such, it seems, is the latest "revelation" delivered from the fragile tripod of a modern Delphi. Assuredly on the minds of those who believe, or else on the minds of those who after this fashion disbelieve, there lies some deep judicial darkness, a darkness that may be felt. While disbelief in the eyes of faith is a sore calamity, this kind of disbelief, which renounces and repudiates with more than satisfaction what is brightest and best in the inheritance of man, is astounding and might be deemed incredible. Nay, some will say, rather than accept the flimsy and hollow consolations which it makes bold to offer, might we not go back to solar adoration, or, with Goethe, to the hollows of Olympus?

"Wenn die Funke sprüht,
Wenn die Asche glüht,
Eilen wir den alten Göttern zu."

—W. E. Gladstone, in "Nineteenth Century."

ANTIOCH IN ROMAN TIMES.

The brilliant side of Syrian affairs is the economic side. In manufactures and trade Syria takes (with Egypt) the first place among the provinces, and even in some aspects rises superior to Egypt. Agriculture thrives under the abiding peace and under the intelligent system of irrigation to a degree which shames modern civilization. . . . Even of districts which are now mere deserts, and where it seems impossible for men to live, a great part was formerly a field of labour for industrious arms. East of Hemesa (Homs) where now you see a green leaf, no drop of water, the remains of very numerous oil presses are found. . . . Travellers from Hemesa to Palmyra now carry water with them on camels; yet the road runs all the way through the remains of villas and towns. What Syria could do is best seen in its chief town, Antioch, the town which was (till the founding of Constantinople) the chief city of the Eastern Provinces, inferior in population only to Rome and Alexandria, and perhaps to Seleucia. . . . Of course, it took an active part in the trade and manufactures of its province; yet it was the residence rather of consumers than of producers. In all ancient history there was no city in which the enjoyment of life was so much the main point, its duties so purely secondary. . . . Antioch was superior to any other city of the Empire in the magnificence of its public buildings and grounds. Its chief street, of vast length, with a broad way bordered on both sides by colonnades, running straight through the town along the river, was imitated in many an ancient city, but could not be matched even in imperial Rome. Water was supplied to every house in Antioch; under the colonnades you could walk all through the town sheltered at any season of the year from rain or sun; at night the streets were lighted—a fact which is reported of no other ancient town.—*Mommsen's History of Rome.*

GRATIFYING STATISTICAL FACTS.

Prof. A. J. Schem, one of the chief authorities on statistics, has published a computation that is both surprising and gratifying. He reports the population of the world at 1,396,752,000 souls; of whom 685,459,411 are under the Christian governments, and 711,333,589 under non-Christian governments. The total area of the earth he reckons to be 52,092,470 square miles; of which 32,419,915 square miles are under Christian governments, and 19,042,555 square miles are under non-Christian governments. It is only about eighty years since the Christian church began to endeavour in earnest to win the world to Christ, and so great has been the success that already nearly half of the population of the world is under Christian influences. The superior vitality and power of Christian governments is shown in the fact that nearly two-thirds of the area of the earth is under their sway. The sure promise of God is, Daniel vii. 27: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."

THE NEBULAR HYPOTHESIS.

Why, we cannot tell, but for some reason we have classed Mr. Proctor among the believers in the nebular hypothesis. However, in an essay on the new star in Andromeda, published in the *Scientific American*, he puts himself among its opponents, in such decided language as this:

If any occurrence in the star depths could possibly shake men's faith in that theory—or rather speculation, for so Laplace regarded it—the sudden appearance of a new star in the midst of a mass of stellar matter should do so. A theory which has been accepted by astronomers under the mistaken idea that there are no physical objections against it, and by physicists under the equally mistaken idea that observed astronomical facts absolutely require it—a hypothesis according to which a mass of gas, far rarer than hydrogen at atmospheric pressure (nay, almost infinitely rarer) and having a span of about six thousand millions of miles, rotated for millions of years as a coherent whole—such a theory may be expected to retain vitality under almost any conceivable shock. Otherwise, assuredly the discovery that sudden and rapid changes, not the inconceivably slow changes imagined by Laplace, affect star clouds of enormous size might be expected to destroy men's faith in an idea which its celebrated author never regarded as more than a guess, and which, with the knowledge of physical laws possessed in our time, should have been long ago rejected as obviously erroneous.

FOR THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

THE CHRISTIAN CREED.

A VERSION IN VERSE.

BY WILLIAM MURRAY, APOLO BANK, HAMILTON.

I believe in God Almighty,
Maker of the heavens and earth,
God the everlasting Father,
He to whom I owe my birth.

And in Jesus, His beloved,
Christ His only Son our Lord,
From eternity begotten,
Ever more to be adored.

By the eternal Holy Spirit
Sinlessly He was conceived;
Born of Mary, blessed Virgin;
By His nation not received.

Under cruel Pontius Pilate
He was crucified and slain;
Buried in the tomb of Joseph,
In which never man had lain.

From the tomb He rose triumphant
On the third, the appointed day,
Angels clothed in shining raiment
Testifying where He lay.

'Twas for sinners that He suffered,
Bled and died upon the tree,
And to sinners now are offered
Peace and pardon, full and free.

He ascended into Heaven,
Where He sits at God's right hand,
Whence He'll come in power and glory
On the earth again to stand.

On the earth, where bruised and bleeding,
Once He to the cross was led,
In the presence of the angels
He will judge the quick and dead.

I believe with equal fervour
In the gracious Holy Ghost,
He, without whose quickening mercy,
Dead in sin, we all were lost.

I believe with joy and gladness
In the holy Catholic Church,
Which upholds throughout all ages
Quenchless Truth's eternal torch.

I believe in the communion
And the union of the saints;
In the fellowship with Jesus,
Which no evil temper taints.

I believe that though my body
Into ashes must decay,
It shall rise again re-quickened
At the Resurrection Day.

And as Christ, my Elder Brother,
Lives and reigns in earth and sky,
And shall live and reign forever,
I believe that so shall I.

DENOMINATIONS IN ULSTER.

The following are given as the figures of the population in the North of Ireland:

County Antrim—118,852 Presbyterians, 50,896 Roman Catholics, 44,128 Episcopalians, with 4,693 Methodists, and 11,456 of other denominations.

Armagh County—72,000 Roman Catholics, 52,000 Episcopalians, 25,000 Presbyterians, 4,000 Methodists, 2,000 of other denominations.

Cavan County—104,000 Roman Catholics, 19,000 Episcopalians, 4,000 Presbyterians, 1,000 Methodists, 185 of other denominations.

Donegal County—157,000 Roman Catholics, 24,000 Episcopalians, 20,000 Presbyterians, 2,000 Methodists, 800 others.

Down County—95,000 Presbyterians, 69,000 Roman Catholics, 53,000 Episcopalians, 3,000 Methodists, 11,000 others.

Fermanagh County—47,000 Roman Catholics, 30,000 Episcopalians, 9,000 Presbyterians, 4,000 Methodists, and 57 others.

Derry County—51,000 Roman Catholics, 48,000 Presbyterians, 25,000 Episcopalians, 500 Methodists, and 3,000 others.

Monaghan County—75,000 Roman Catholics, 13,000 Episcopalians, 12,000 Presbyterians, 500 Methodists, 600 others.

Tyrone County—109,000 Roman Catholics, 44,000 Episcopalians, 35,000 Presbyterians, 3,000 Methodists, 1,000 others.

"THE Lives of Robert and Mary Moffat" has reached a second edition within a month of its publication.

Most people think, if they keep all the best rooms in their hearts swept and garnished for Christ, that they may keep a little chamber in their heart's wall for Belial on his occasional visits; or a three-legged stool for him in the heart's counting house; or a corner for him in the heart's scullery, where he may lick the dishes. It won't do. You must cleanse the house of him, as you would of the plague, to the last spot. You must be resolved that as all you have shall be God's, so all you are shall be God's.—*John Ruskin.*

British and Foreign.

WITHIN the last ten years fourteen war correspondents have perished in the prosecution of their calling. The half of these fell in the Sudan.

THE McAll mission has now 100 distinct stations, of which thirty-eight are in Paris and its neighbourhood. During last year 902,121 persons attended the services.

AT a meeting of delegates from the Australasian Young Men's Christian Associations held at Sydney, it was resolved to ask Messrs. Moody and Sankey to visit these Colonies.

A GENEROUS Free Church elder, in order to deepen the interest of its members in the Church's work, is circulating a thousand copies a month of the *Free Church Monthly*.

THE Rev. Mr. McEachran, of Victoria, states that within the last eighteen months three ministers arrived in that Colony with good certificates whose conduct was such as to preclude their being called.

MR. JOHN RAE's masterly volume on "Contemporary Socialism," the most instructive work on the subject that has yet been written, is being translated into Italian by Professor Bertolini, of Venice.

THE Rev. Charles Naismith, late of Helensburgh and the Vale of Leven, formerly of Canada, was inducted to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Liverpool, New South Wales, on 2nd September.

THE Baptists of New South Wales have a mission in India and are making progress in numbers, liberality and area of work. Last year \$7,500 were raised for the general purpose of the denomination.

MR. CAINE, M.P., calculates that by the extinction of the liquor traffic other trades in Great Britain would be benefited to the extent of \$1,000,000 a year! Mr. Caine puts prohibition first in his programme.

THE Presbyterian Church of England has lost one of its saintliest laymen and most generous, as well as unostentatious, givers, by the death of Mr. David Peebles Wood, a member of St. John's Wood congregation.

THE Rev. Mr. Graham, of New Haven, gave notice at last meeting of Edinburgh Presbytery that he would call attention at next meeting to how the Act of Security and Treaty of Union might act as a barrier against Disestablishment.

THE Rev. George Rubson, of Lauder, who has been minister there for fifty-two years and is still hale and hearty with the exception of failing eyesight, has got a colleague and successor in Mr. Thomas Keir, of Perth, who was ordained recently.

LADY JANE DUNDAS has given \$4,000 to Haddington Presbytery to enable them to continue the bursaries annually provided by the late Lady Ruthven in Pencailand parish and which has lapsed by a flaw in her ladyship's settlements.

STIRLING Free Presbytery rescinded Mr. Porteous's call to Dunipace, on account of the lack of harmony in the congregation and appointed three assessors to select a minister, without, it is said, giving the congregation any voice in the matter.

THE funeral of Bishop Fraser was most impressive, and showed the profound respect in which the good prelate was held. The streets of Manchester were lined with people dressed in mourning; business on 'change was suspended and many shops were closed.

THE Rev. Dr. Alex. White, of Edinburgh, recently gave a powerful address on "Personal Piety," before a large gathering of men in Free St. Matthew's, Glasgow. Mr. Salmond, minister of the congregation, was in the chair, and Professor Lindsay and others also took part in the proceedings.

THE Rev. Ronald Bayne, who is a contributor to the fourth volume of the "Dictionary of National Biography," is a son of Dr. B. Bayne, who succeeded Hugh Miller in the editorship of the *Witness* and afterward started the *London Weekly Review*. Mr. Ronald Bayne is a curate in the Anglican Church.

MELBOURNE Presbytery is considering a scheme of visitation of congregations by six ministers and six elders to receive reports and give advice and encouragement. They would meet first with the session, then with the managers and Sabbath school officials, finally devoting an evening to the congregation.

MEMBERS of the Bible class in Rutherford Free Church, Aberdeen, have constructed a very ingenious and complete model of the tabernacle, intended to illustrate lessons in the class. Three months were devoted to its construction. Last year the class numbered 223, and the model is likely to increase it this winter.

THE *Reformer* asserts that at Campbeltown, the whiskey-distilling capital of Scotland, there are 151 paupers and pauper-lunatics out of a population of less than 10,000; that no fewer than 300 hundred families have each but a single room; and that within two years over fifty deaths have been traced directly to drink.

MR. GILBERT BEITH, invited to become a candidate for the central division of Glasgow, has been most cordially approved by the local Liberal Association. Another son of the venerable Dr. Beith, of Stirling, Mr. Donald Beith, was pressed at the general election to become a candidate for Manchester, the city in which he resides.

MR. J. HALL RENTON has been adopted by the local Liberal Association as their candidate for the central division of Edinburgh. Mr. Anderson, of the well-known publishing-house of Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, as chairman at one of Mr. Renton's meetings, made happy reference to the candidate's parents and also to his distinguished brother, the late Rev. Henry Renton, of Kelso, whose memory is warmly cherished in so many hearts.