

to the return of the prodigal ; while the elder son, disliking music and dancing, represents the natural man, condemning their soul-reviving practices.

SOCINIANS take their name from Faustus Socinus, who died in Poland, 1604. There were two who bore the name Socinus, uncle and nephew, and both disseminated the same doctrine. The Socinian asserts that Christ had no existence until born of the Virgin Mary ; and that being a man like ourselves, though endowed with a large portion of the Divine wisdom, the only objects of his mission were to teach the efficacy of repentance without an atonement, as a medium of the Divine favour ; to exhibit an example for our imitation ; to seal his doctrine with his blood, and, in his resurrection from the dead, to indicate the certainty of our resurrection at the last day.

SWEDENBORGIANS, or *New Jerusalem Church*. This sect owes its origin to Emanuel Swedenborg, a native of Sweden, born 1689. In 1743, he began to disseminate his doctrines which, as gathered from his works, are summarily as follow : 1. That there is but one God, one in essence and one in person, in whom there is a Divine Trinity, like soul, body and operation in man, and that the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is that one God. 2. That the humanity derived from the virgin was successfully put off, and a divine humanity put on in its stead, and this was the glorification of the son of man. 3. That redemption consisted in the subjugation of the powers of hell, whereby man was delivered from the bondage of evils and errors and that it was thus an actual work on the part of the Lord, for the sake and happiness of man. 4. That faith alone does not justify and save man ; but he must have faith, charity, and good works. 5. That the sacred Scripture is divinely inspired in every particular, and contains a natural, spiritual, and celestial sense, and is applicable to angels in heaven, as well as to men on earth. 6. That man enters, immediately after death, into the spiritual world, leaving his body, which will never be reassumed, and continues, to all eternity, a man in a human form, with the possession of all his faculties. 7. That the last judgment spoken of in the New Testament was effected by the Lord in the spiritual world in the year 1757 : the good were then elevated to heaven, and the evil cast down to hell. Thus the way was prepared for the second advent of the Lord, which was a coming, not in person, but in the power and glory of his Holy Word, and, a new spiritual influx being communicated, a *new church* would thereby be established.