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AND CHRISTIAN WITNESS.—A FAMILIAR JOURNAL.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE."—PROV. XIV. 34.

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THOMAS OWEN, P. M. G. General Post Office, May 27, 1858.

KIRWAN'S REPLY TO BISHOP HUGHES.

Was Peter Pope?—Examination continued.—But two Arguments that can not be answered.—Tillotson's Opinion.

LETTER VI.

MY DEAR SIR,—In my last letter I entered upon an examination of the claims of the Pope to supremacy without concluding that the testimony of tradition was inadmissible, and that the teaching, the facts, and the tenor of the New Testament are directly in opposition to them.

But as a man of spirit, greatly unwilling that a mere "private reasoner" should have even the appearance of victory over you, you appear again in court to prove, by other evidence, that Peter was clothed by Christ with supremacy, and that he was the first Pope of Rome.

The judge having already decided the testimony adduced to prove the first point, and having called for evidence which you can not adduce, you address yourself to the second, to prove that Peter was the first Pope of Rome.

You state the point, and his honor calls for the testimony, and with an air of triumph you adduce the early records of the Church, from its foundation to the fifth century, among which are the books of the New Testament. The judge says, "Well, Bishop Hughes, we will commence with those documents, and examine them in their order." The proposition is a fair one, and you consent.

"Mark," says the judge, "was a friend and follower of Peter. He wrote his gospel at Rome, about thirty years after the ascension of Christ. Some of the fathers even say that it was revised by Peter. Does he say anything about Peter being Pope of Rome?" You reply, "No; Mark is silent on the subject." So that document is laid aside.

"Here are Peter's own letters," says the judge, "written but a short time previous to his death—thirty years, at least, after his alleged investiture with the supremacy. Do they say anything about Peter?"

"No," you reply; "it would not be modest in him to say anything about the matter." So these are laid aside; the judge remarking, in an undertone, "It would have been well if the successors of Peter had imitated his modesty, who, after being nearly forty years Pope, in two letters to the churches says not a word about his supremacy." Modesty, you know, is not an episcopal virtue.

"Next are the letters of Paul," says the judge, "written from Rome, and to the Romans. Do they bear any testimony to the point to be proved?" His letter to the Romans was written several years after Peter was made Pope there. Does he say anything about Peter?

"At the close of the letter he sends his affectionate salutations to a great number of persons; but he does not mention Peter." Where, according to your showing, Peter was in the plenitude of his power at Rome, Paul was taken there as a prisoner. While there, he wrote several of these epistles; and he would not have failed to speak of it to his friends! How is all this!" Hard questions, these.

Vexed to the quick by these questions, for even bishops have feelings, and are susceptible of his honor is "private reasoner," you reply, "We will lay aside, if you please, those documents which form the New Testament, and pass on to the next in order. They have already been treated by your own reasoning; to their own destruction, who are incapable of 'making an act of faith.'"

"But, before we lay them aside," says the judge, "do you admit, bishop, that they give no testimony, and pass on to the next in order? You give a reluctant assent. He again asks, 'How do you account for the fact that they give no testimony, considering the peculiar circumstances under which they were written?' You hit your lips, but are speechless.

After waiting a few minutes for a reply, the judge says, "We will proceed to the next document; what is it?"

"Here," you say, "is Jerome's account of the second year of Claudius, and was bishop there twenty-five years."

"But," says the judge, "Jerome wrote about the year 400, and how did he know? where did he get his facts?"

"In the twelfth year of Claudius, Paul went to Jerusalem, and found Peter there. Did he run away from Rome? Does Peter go from Rome to Jerusalem? Or was he, like some bishops in our day, who love the dense more than the flock, a non-resident? In the reign of Nero, who succeeded Claudius, Paul went to Rome, and found the people there quite uninformed as to the faith of Christ (Acts xxiii., 17-24). If Peter was Pope there for so many years previous, what was he about? Besides, the apostles were ministers at large; their duty was, not to abide in any city—not to limit their general for a local authority, but to go into all the earth, and preach the Gospel to every creature. So that, if these documents are true, they show that Peter, at least, was disobedient to the ascending command of his Lord, by leaving himself at home instead of laboring to extend the Gospel to every creature. So that, if these papers are true, and if they establish the point you press so earnestly, they will simply prove the unfaithfulness of Peter. If not true, you are lost; if true, Peter was disobedient apostle, and ought to be condemned, instead of being followed and glorified, for seeking his own ease instead of obeying his Master's command."

"The judge, catching only the truth, places you in this and dilemma; I see your Irish heart swelling with emotion. You seize your crook and your keys, and glance a wrathful look at the 'private reasoner,' so unwilling to wear the crown of glory, your sober second thoughts return, and you ask, with a tone of unfeigned indignation, 'What proof does your honor want that Peter was bishop of Rome?' What proof will you admit that the pope has his true successors?"

"His honor replies calmly, but decidedly, 'Bishop Hughes, the point you wish to prove is one of vital importance; it is the hinge upon which many grave questions turn, which deeply concern the destinies of our race. So you and I believe. To prove it, I demand

of you, not old wives' fables, but testimony so clear and direct as to place it beyond a doubt. As to his being Bishop of Rome or being ever Rome, the Scriptures are equally silent as the Scriptures, Clement, Barnabas, Hermas, Ignatius, Polycarp, say not a word upon the subject. At about the close of the second century, Irenaeus records it as a tradition received from one Papias, and followed by your other authorities. But who Papias was, while there are various conjectures, nobody knows. And Eusebius speaks of the matter as a doubtful tradition. Here, sir, is the amount of your testimony; it reads itself into the truth or falsehood of a prattling Papias, who told Irenaeus that somebody told him, who was told by somebody, that Peter was Pope at Rome!"

"Now, sir, the evidence I require is, first, that he was ever at Rome; and, secondly, that if there, he was Pope of the universal Church; and upon these points I will admit the testimony of the Scriptures, the apostles, or any competent contemporary. If you have any such testimony, produce it." You reply, "This is asking too much of an infallible Church, whose writings tradition is of equal authority with the written word." His honor replies, "Bishop Hughes, it is asking a little too much to ask us to believe without evidence."

"You ask," continues the judge, "what evidence I will admit to prove that the pope are the successors of Peter? I want you first to prove that Peter was Pope; if he was not, he has no successors. If he was Pope, I then wish you to explain why he was made Pope, while he was not apart as the apostle of the circumcision. You send him to the Gentiles, while his peculiar vocation was to the Jews. I wish you also to explain, why make him Pope of Rome instead of Antioch, where he labored with great success, or instead of Jerusalem, where the Spirit was poured out, and where he preached with such remarkable power? It is not probable that tradition has again misled you as to the location of the chair of St. Peter, which he was made Pope at Rome, and what were the limits of his authority; for so his successors must be inaugurated and limited. I wish you to prove the duties devolved upon Peter, and his manner of discharging them; for such are the duties of his successors, and such must be their manner of discharging them. I wish you to prove the doctrines and morals preached and practiced by Peter, as his successors must preach and practice the same doctrines and morals. Peter had a wife; have your popes? Peter called himself an elder; do your popes? Peter exercised no temporal power; is he so in your popes? Peter devoted himself to preaching the Gospel; do your popes? Peter was a man of no pride, though impulsive, and never asked any mortal to kiss his foot or his toe; is he so with your popes? Peter was very poor; what did your popes do when you swore to maintain the royalties of St. Peter?"

"Swelling with indignation, you rise, and, interrupting the judge, you exclaim, 'Enough! enough! I see that your honor is a private reasoner, incapable of making an act of faith; and of course no better than a heathen or a pagan. You are unfitted to sit upon such questions or to decide upon them.' And, collecting again your papers and trappings, you leave the court, muttering in an undertone as you go, 'that if you had his honor in Italy, under the shadow of the sceptre of the illustrious Pius IX., you would teach him what was the true evidence a judge should require upon such points.'"

"Thus, sir, in the form of a judicial investigation, I have examined the testimony which your Church adduces to prove that Peter was clothed by Jesus Christ with supremacy over the apostles; that he was the first Pope of Rome; and that the popes of Rome are his legitimate successors. There is not a particle of reliable proof as to either of these positions, while the evidence is overwhelming that they are the most ignorant and self-righteous impostors of the age, and that they are based upon clouds which disappear before the light of investigation, you base your very existence and perpetuity of the church of Rome. It seems incredible that a man of sense, and as a Christian too, should have believed in such a profane connection with men called popes, whose ignorance, profanity, and cruelty, and falsehood have stamped their name with infamy, and tell me that my submission to God and his Son is of no avail unless I submit to these men, some of whom were devils in convulsion."

"There are two items of proof in favor of the supremacy of Peter adduced by your Church, and for the information of your readers. The first is the passage in Luke (9, 33-34), where Jesus entered into the ship of Peter in preference to that of James, and Peter played upon the name of the Gospel. He proclaimed that at Rome he was going to die in the air, and Peter was there to oppose him. By the aid of the devil he suddenly got up in the air, but Peter knelt down and prayed so earnestly, that he was taken up, and left poor Simon to shift for himself; he fell to the earth by the law of gravity, and broke both his legs; and the impression of the apostle's knees upon the stones in Rome are now to be seen. These are the two items of proof, and the suppositions of my Irish nature? compel me to say the end of the matter."

Yours, KIRWAN.

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

We see it stated, upon what may be considered reliable authority, that thirty thousand Christians have recently been found upon an island north of Celebes. It has been rumored for some time, that there was there a Christian people, forgotten and forsaken, which, however, yet possessed three Bibles, and continued steadfast in the faith. When missionaries first landed on the island, they met with a school teacher and his pupils, who repeated in the Malay language, "As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O Lord." No Bibles were found, but the most precious promises of the Bible written upon the bark of trees. They knew the Apostle's Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism, and had Christian customs. Twenty churches and schools were established. Through the instrumentality of pastor Holding, founder of the Magdalen Asylum at Steinstock, and chief patron of Inner Missions in Holland, four missionaries, who had been educated under the venerable Gosner, were sent out, and three thousand persons baptized.

This is certainly a most interesting discovery. The island on which these Christians were found belongs to the East Indian Archipelago. The Dutch have for years had political rule in this region. This may account for the original introduction of Christianity amongst this people, and for the fact that the Heidelberg Catechism was still found in their possession. But still the particular time and circumstances in which this introduction took place may well challenge special attention, and elicit investigation from those who have the leisure and facilities for prosecuting it.—German Reformed Messenger.

HAVANA.

(Philadelphia Correspondence of the Presbyterian.)

DONKEYS AND THEIR TRIPS.

Slowly moving along one of the narrow streets of Havana, comes what seems to be a stack of green fodder. On closer inspection a head and a tail is discovered, and it turns out to be a donkey carrying a load of this commodity to market, or more accurately, a donkey hid in a fodder stack. This corn which he carries, though long enough to cover him, and have a surplus left over, is the growth of only six weeks. Two crops a year of it can be raised in this prolific soil. In the great state, it would seem to be much in use for cattle, judging from the numbers of these locomotive stacks we encountered, though I infer from what was told me about the planter's food, that it is not one of the staples for the table, as in our Southern States.

The poor donkeys fare badly in Havana, having to do the service of drags, wagons, and carts, as well as donkey duties in general, of those useful vehicles just mentioned, being too much modern contrivances to have found, as yet, much favour. Here comes a donkey, across whose back is draped a most capacious panier of woven grass, from whose generous mouth, like pair of cornucopias, there may be seen fruits, vegetables, melons of all sorts and sizes, and astride of which is a strapping negro, yelling at the top of his voice, his appearance to the Havana people, the city looks like a queen looking her feet to come and buy. The donkey has good reason to sympathize in his master's desire for many and prompt customers.

A CHANGING PANORAMA.

About the only vehicle one encounters in Havana, which reminds him that he is still in the nineteenth century, is the cosmopolitan and accommodating omnibus. Our Yankee friend introduced us to one of these, and accompanied us on a very pleasant little trip of some two miles, to the Castillo del Principe, a fortification occupying a very elevated position. From this point there is a most commanding view. Hill and valley are clad in the richest verdure, the city looks like a queen looking her feet in the placid waters of the beautiful harbor, shipping and steamers lie lazily at anchor, undulating hills rise from the further side of the bay, the Moro Castle stands out solitary and grim in its rocky pedestal, and beyond stretch away the sparkling waters of the deep blue sea. We have a charming day for gazing on this enchanting panorama, as this being the rainy season, masses of soft clouds, like a queen's train, sweep across the sky, and subdue and soften the lights and shadows of the landscape. There is probably no point in the vicinity of Havana which commands so fine a prospect.

SOLDIERS AND THE MOBO.

Having enjoyed, in full measure, the scene before us, we made an effort to get a glimpse at the interior of the arrangements of the fortress. A dark-faced, dried-up looking Spanish sentinel confronted us at the gateway. We made known our wishes and pacific intentions, but he would not budge, and we were obliged to retreat with a heavy load of comrades, lounging on the ramparts, he gave us to understand that there was no admittance. No doubt they had the fear of filibusters before their minds.

Judging from the sample of Spanish soldiers we have encountered, they cannot be very formidable combatants. One sturdy, and another American volunteer, accompanied us to meet a dozen of these men, who were spiritless looking fellows. They were probably hardly the pick of old Spain when they left there; but the little life they have in them is kept up by many more in other parts of the island. The mother country honours the gum of the Antilles with an army of no mean proportions, but she makes the Cubans pay the piper, and she has to keep up this soldiery, and when a large fleet comes to their protection, the government puts its remorseless hand deep in their pockets, that they have reason to question whether the fleet is not a large fleet, such of them sinking a cigar.

I may as well here that the Moro Castle did not strike us as answering to its world-wide renown. Its position on a rocky promontory, at the very narrow end of the bay, and its dimensions are very limited, and that its structure does not indicate great strength. It is not so much a formidable as a magnificent building, and its architecture is of the style of the sixteenth century. For Washington, on the Potomac, nor does their economical uniform either add to their comeliness, or give them much of "the pomp and circumstance" which is the glory of the soldier. It is not so much a military as a domestic style, and a suit of blue and white gingham, the coat being a frock, fastened around the waist with a belt. I believe there are about forty thousand of these Spanish scotch and about twenty thousand of these American fellows in the island. It is not so much a military as a domestic style, and a suit of blue and white gingham, the coat being a frock, fastened around the waist with a belt. 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Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Chronic or Nervous Debility, Diseases of the Kidneys, and all diseases arising from a disordered Liver or Stomach.

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For the Cure of Dyspepsia. Ayer's Pills are the best medicine for the cure of Dyspepsia, or Indigestion, Jaundice, Bilious Complaints, Acid Stomach, Sick Headache, Heartburn, Acid Stomach and Diarrhoea, and all Diseases having their origin in Costiveness or Bad Digestion.

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Names are curious things, and by the Jews were given to infants on the eighth day, the Romans on the ninth, and the Greeks the tenth.

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Dyspepsia and derangement of the liver, the source of indigestion, and the cause of innumerable deaths, yield to these curatives, in all cases however aggravated, acting as a mild purgative, and restoring the system to its normal condition.

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When all stimulants fail, the renovating and bracing properties of these Pills give firmness to the shaking nerves and enfeebled muscles of the victim of general debility.

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CRAMP AND PAIN KILLER.

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MUTCHINS' HEADACHE PILLS, AND NEURALGIA.

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ABOUT TWO YEARS ago we first mentioned what we have since known and proved entirely effectual as a preventive against the killing of pigs by the mother—an unassuming, though by no means unusual proceeding on the part of some sows.

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