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No. 5—SECOND SERIES.

Pulpit Criticism.

WITH

ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE,

A WEEKLY SHEET,

BY DAVID EDWARDS.

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THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, JARVIS STREET.

We observe from the pamphlets which are habitually distributed at the door of this building, that it is styled "The First Unitarian Church," and with great deference, we would observe that the Church, or at least the *worship* of Cain was more like *the first* Unitarian worship; the same disposition was manifested symbolically by Adam, whose physical nakedness represented moral, but he submitted to be corrected by his Maker; the philosophy of Cain consisted in (1) disbelieving the promise of deliverance by means of "the woman's seed;" (2) he repudiated the malediction denounced against the earth, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake;" (3) he ignored the fact that his parents and himself were involved in that curse (4) he brought "of the fruit of the (cursed) ground, an offering to Jehovah;" he brought an offering which failed to recognize the fact of the fall, and the antidote which was in store through the mercy of God. If Unitarians speak and write "smooth things" till doom's-day, they will tell us no more, and mean no less than does the narrative of Cain, in relation to his mode of worship.

The first object which meets the eye, on entering the above-named church is a blue cross with gilded border, represented as hanging on a curtain behind the pulpit; a Christless cross, and as such, a not unfit symbol of a form of religion which differs from Judaism in little more than in name. The writer is conscious that the foregoing statement is calculated to excite either pity or scorn on the part of Unitarians, according to their respective proclivities; he can only find space to observe however that the pamphlets circulated by them appeal to intelligence, are plausible on the twofold ground of their bearing being Cain-wards, and also on account of their compilers (one of whom is well named *Doubtless*) having selected some of the worst features of the creeds and confessions of orthodox churches on which

to dilate ; the compilers kindly undertake to enlighten us all, and some of us at least are of opinion that they are more in need of light ; so generous however is the body (and on that account they deserve thankful recognition) that they tell us their pamphlets are sent *gratuitous* on application to the American Unitarian Association. Our conviction is that even the general run of ministers (to say nothing of lay persons) are so exceedingly deficient in their understanding of the Bible, that they are not competent to reply to the sophistries of these pamphlets ; we have dilated on the subject of the pamphlets because they teach far more definitely the belief and the unbelief of this body than any sermon, and probably any series of sermons would be likely to do ; we may perhaps say something about the service in our next number.

THE MAIL.

The Mail is wont to rail ; reverse " rail," and we have *The Mail*.—See paragraph *Re HUNTER vs. EDWARDS* in *The Mail* of the 29th ult.

The Christian Guardian was obviously off duty when it allowed its messenger to deliver copies of No. 47 of PULPIT CRITICISM with its own paper ; but for this circumstance, we happen to know that a gentleman who takes both publications would have missed¹ the perusal of No. 47 of the CRITICISM.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Suggested to the REV. J. A. LIVINGSTONE, d—d., with that humility which becomes a mouse when approaching a lion.

According to Æsop, the former quadruped was, on one occasion found useful to the latter ; the mouse is said to have nibbled the net in which the lion was caught, and so to have enabled the monarch to escape. On the occasion of the next sale of an organ, by the Rev. Mr. Livingstone, we think we may guarantee that gentleman—not a mere twenty-five per cent. in advance of other organ-dealers, but fifty, if he will deign to accept advice from one so comparatively verdant. Let him undertake to throw in *two* sermons (without charge, beyond the fifty per cent. on the organ) and advertise in the *Mail*, *Globe*, and *Evening News*, in the following style* :—

GRAND OPENING

OF

PHYLACTERY CHURCH ORGAN.

The Morning Sermon will be preached by

THE REV J. A. LIVINGSTONE, d—d.

The REV. DR. HUNTER (the uncompensated Director of the Temperance Colonization Company) has been engaged to perform the laughable

* Each of these interesting journals will probably reduce their advertising rates an extra quarter per cent. beyond their accustomed reduction to the rev. advertiser, on the score of the attractiveness of the advertisement.

extravaganza, written by the rev. gentleman, and received with so much eclat, on the Queen Street Methodist stage, on the evening of the 4th inst. The rev. gentleman will on this occasion illustrate the practice of his friend Satan, who (he tells us) is "specially allowed to afflict the righteous," and as is to be expected (according to Dr. H.'s delineation of him), has a special yearning for *shining lights*; for Christian ministers who are eloquent in the pulpit, and who are doing a mighty work for God. The rev. comedian will also, array himself as

"A DRUNKEN CRANK, WITH HIS HEAD BEGIRT WITH A WET TOWEL,"

and will proceed to indite an article relating to the alleged swindling operations of a man who is supposed to be occupied with "the cure of souls;" if the foregoing announcement should produce the desired effect, and result in a crowded house, the rev. gentlemen will probably effect a transfer from the kingdom of nature to that of grace (?) and "screech, etc.," "trill, etc.," and "weep, etc.," to the delight of hysterical women and impotent men.

The *Mail*, and its little daughter in the basement, will sing a duet, with an organ accompaniment by the REV. J. A. LIVINGSTONE, d—d., to the following words—"As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen." That interesting group of ministers, who have recently been drummed up to testify to the immaculacy of the Rev. Dr. Hunter, will unite in a grand chorus in praise of all their philanthropic brethren, whose zeal for the temperance cause has resulted in their taking stock in the Temperance Colonization Company's enterprise.

A piece in a minor key may be expected from the *Christian Guardian*, which in an unguarded moment, contributed to circulate within its folds, one of the uncomplimentary articles of PULPIT CRITICISM, and has sat on the penitent form from that time forward.

If the afore-named journals should allow a silly production styled *Truth* (which is probably written for the convalescents in our Asylums) to squeak from the bottom of its well, this twenty-pager will probably contribute to swell the chorus at the grand opening of Phylactery Church Organ.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, JARVIS STREET.

Continued from No. 4.

In regard to the better part of the sermon, the ideas may be said to have been drawn from the Biblical similes, "As a father pitieth his children," and "as a mother comforteth, etc.;" the fundamental truth of vicarious sacrifice was said to be illustrated by the self-sacrificing devotedness of a mother to a sick child; correct as this is in itself, one can hardly let it pass without observing that there is an element of pulpit cant about this perpetual reference to mothers and "their little ones," which did not appear to be lacking on this occasion; a veiled appeal to sentiment can unhappily be introduced when descending on the most solemn subjects; the *faith* of a Christian was illustrated by the depiction of a child on the casement of a burning house, jumping unhesitatingly into his father's arms; and the *repentance* of a little girl, who was represented as seeking a *quiet little corner* (cant again),—the antithesis of little Jack Horner,—this repentance served to illustrate the repentance of a Christian; *the habitual confidence* of

a child, traceable as it is, to the unfailing supply of its needs, further illustrated the abiding confidence of a Christian; an apparent hint at the supposed feebleness of the pulpit instrumentality was too suggestive of Dr. Hunter and aped humility. Dr. Thomas is not the only one who tells us that "there are many things in the Bible which we cannot understand;" we presume the rev. gentleman will admit that whatever is found in that book is intended by the Almighty to be understood; if therefore we do not understand it, the fault must be in some sort our own, and according to our judgment, twaddle relating to "pellucid lakes" will do but little to help us.

Thrice in the course of this harangue, we were told to "go home," and do so and so; one of us said to himself "shall be very glad to go, so soon as you will let us." Before the time of disenthralment arrived, we had to listen to the subjoined verse (among others in hymn 623), to which, in our judgment, it would be difficult for either pastor or people to attach an intelligible meaning:—

" Oh for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that's sprinkled with the blood,
So freely shed for me."

The upholders of an aspect of Christianity which appeals so feebly both to head and heart as does that presented in the above-named Church, need not be surprised at that condition of the galleries which is not veiled by placing the choir therein.


A member of the Methodist community has complained of the Editor's articles as being "too milk and watery;" it is remarkable that the article in which the Rev. Dr. Hunter was sufficiently interested to purchase two copies, is apparently *too creamy* for the Dr.'s lay brother, as it has been returned, enriched with the superscription of the word "refused."

COLLEGE DEGREES.

Do the above-named distinctions represent degrees of knowledge, or degrees of ignorance, or both? With regard to either Biblical or medical knowledge, there can be no doubt that far more of either is obtainable outside those institutions than within.

COMMENDABLE FORESIGHT.

The rush of pious frauds which, owing to the operations of the Temperance Colonization Company, is expected to arrive at the Kingston Penitentiary ere long, may be expected to result in tenders being issued by the Government for the erection of separate wards for their reception. It will also be necessary to inoculate the other prisoners *from* the pious frauds, lest the pious aspect of fraud should exceed its present limits.

 In the event of any irregularity occurring in the delivery of this publication, the Editor requests that he may be addressed respecting it.

"MEDICAL CRITICISM," by the same author, may be procured at No. 4 Adelaide St. West. Price \$1.50 per annum.