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TWENTY COPIES OF THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, for six months, are wanted among the Union soldiers at Fort Delaware by the Chaplain to the post, Rev. E. J. Way. We have determined to take the risk of sending them; who will furnish the whole, or part of the \$15 necessary to meet the expense?

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW ON THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN.

The subject of the ANTIQUITY OF MAN, as mooted in late geological discussions, particularly those of Sir Charles Lyell, Dr Forbes, Prentiss &c., is treated in an interesting manner in the concluding article of the July number of the *Edinburgh Review*. As the *Review* for the last eighteen months has shown a decided leaning to the Stanley and Colenso school of Biblical criticism, we are not surprised to find in the article, a degree of indifference (perhaps even less than usual) to the fate of the Biblical Chronology and the historical character of the Mosaic records, in the hands of the geologist. But this very indifference makes the prevailing conservative character of the article more important.

On the question of the discovery of human remains, or rather of half of a single human jawbone, in connection with the flint hachets of Abbeville, the evidence is stated by the *Review* with seeming impartiality, and is in substance the same as quoted in our columns some weeks ago from a contemporary journal. The fragment of the jaw was discovered on the 28th of last March; a single tooth had been discovered some days previously. The tooth was taken to England and pronounced recent; some hachets carried to England at the same time, and reputed to be taken from the same locality, were pronounced spurious. A meeting of scientific men, including four from London, was held in Paris to examine more particularly into the facts. All agreed at the time, that no fraud had been practised at least in regard to the jaw; but the writer of the article in the *Review* says, in a footnote, that strong doubts as to the genuineness of some of the hachets are entertained by scientific men of eminence. He adds:

"We are informed that at recent meetings of the Geological Society of London more than one of the English Commissioners has been known to retract the opinion he formed at Abbeville. These frequent alterations of judgment have throughout cast a doubt on the value of the evidence. It is certain that many genuine remains have been found at Abbeville; but it is not less certain that many spurious objects have been introduced into the beds of gravel there."

The italics are our own. We need not pause to remark upon the importance of the statements here made. The argument from these remains for the Antiquity of Man is seriously, perhaps irrevocably, damaged. When the records of geology are found liable to interpolation, when manufactured relics can be palmed upon those who would have us believe their understandings are too clear to accept the statements of Scripture, when the foundations of our most formidable arguments are discovered to rest upon ground so uncertain, we may at least postpone any serious consideration of the difficulties they would suggest, until stronger evidence, than any yet produced, is forthcoming.

But even if multitudes of undoubtedly genuine human remains in the same state of preservation with this fragment, were to be discovered in this famous valley of the Somme, the question of their place in the geological system and consequently of their age, would still remain to be settled. We turn to the *Review*:

"The reader must not, however, suppose that with the admission of the relics being truly old as alleged in an undisturbed bed at the depth of fifteen feet, coincidence of opinion as to the age of the fossil was thereby attained. Dr Falconer and Mr. Buck resisted the doubts they originally entertained as to the absolute age of the jaw, which was now seen across and displayed an amount of freshness inconsistent, in their opinion, with its being coeval with the remains of the extinct quadrupeds. These doubts do not seem to have been shared by the French members of the Commission; but the eminent physiologists who belonged to it, especially M. Milne-Edwards (who as president, brought the detailed report before the Academy of Sciences on the 18th of May) and M. de Quatrefages, expressly held themselves committed to any opinion as to the geological age of the Mouton-Quignon beds. This reserve was the more prudent and necessary, because at the same sitting M. Elie de Beaumont, who, so far as is known to us, had hitherto studiously avoided any expression of opinion, made a statement so positive and so unexpected, as to judge by the contemporary reports, produced an unusual and almost electric sensation on the scientific auditory. His opinion or decision was to this effect—'that the Mouton-Quignon beds are not 'diluvial'; they are not even alluvia deposited by the encroachment of rivers on their banks; but are simply composed of washed soil deposited on the flanks of the valley by excessive falls of rain, such as may be supposed to occur exceptionally once or twice in a thousand years. A week later this eminent geologist reiterated his opinion in the same illustrious assembly, adding, that of the age of these formations belonged, in his opinion, to the 'stone period,' or is analogous to that of peat mosses and the Swiss 'lake-habitations.'"

"Such," says the *Review*, "is the position of the question as we write."

In another part of the article, the *Review* commends the reader against accepting Sir Charles Lyell's theory of the enormous age of the great river deltas of the world. Sir Charles supposes that the modern delta of the Mississippi may have required 100,000 years for its formation! The *Review* refers to Dana's recent Manual of Geology for data upon which he bases an estimate of 5000 or 6000 years as quite sufficient for the formation of the delta. Elie de Beaumont, an authority of the highest character in geology, allows it but 1300 years!

We have already, in view of the bearings of this question upon the historical character of the book of Genesis, presented the alternative of a "vision of the prevailing views of geologists as to the great length of time required for the

changes which have taken place upon the earth's surface. In our issue of May 7th, in replying to the "New Demand of Science," for an indefinite extension of the period of man's existence on earth, we asked:

"Is it necessary to suppose that such vast ages were consumed in accomplishing the geological changes on the surface of the earth and its inhabitants. Is the earth itself as old as geologists would teach? Might not all the phenomena have taken place in the six days of creation and the deluge? It is natural for us to ask such questions, when we find whether an implicit reliance on geology is leading us."

We are pleased to find the *Review* led to adopt the same general tone of remark, under the pressure of these extraordinary demands, principally from one class of geologists. He, too, evidently feels that, before we grant such an enormous extension to the human epoch, it will be wise to re-examine the general grounds upon which geologists base their conclusions and rear their structure of aeons upon aeons. He says:

"These discussions will necessarily bring to a more distinct issue than hitherto the hypothesis of Geological Uniformity. We have given some reasons in the course of this article for believing that the hypothesis of geological uniformity must ere long be wholly abandoned. We have even shown that Sir Charles Lyell himself is not unfrequently compelled to dissent from his own principles as leading to absurd results. Geological phenomena, so far as they depend on mechanical agencies, require for their manifestation and accomplishment both force and time. They depend on the combined effect of both. If a large effect is to be accounted for, the time may be supposed short if the force be great; if the forces are small, the period of their continuation must be long. In the pregnant language of Dr. Whewell, 'Time inexhaustible, and ever accumulating its efficacy, can undoubtedly do much for the theorist in geology; but force, whose limits we cannot measure, and whose effects we cannot fathom, is also a power never to be slighted; and call in the one to protect us from the other, is equally presumptuous, to whichever of the two our supposition leans.' In Geology there are certainly many facts which cannot, without extravagant improbability, be supposed to have been accomplished without the lapse of immense periods of time. Such are the deposition of the coal measures, taking into account the time requisite for the growth and mineralisation of their vegetable contents; and the formation of highly fossiliferous organic limestones. Generally, the element of organic life introduces into geology the necessity of long periods and occasional catastrophes. On the other hand, the truly gigantic revolutions indicated by the faults, elevations, marvellous plications and contortions, and even complete inversions of the strata which compose the vast mountain chains of our globe, between synchronous forces quite unexampled in history. They also bear evidence to having been effected with considerable rapidity, and towards their accomplishment an eternity of duration allowed to existing forces could make no approximation. Even in the most intelligible field of the denudation caused by water, with its subsequent deposition of alluvia, the Corymphan of the uniformitarian school of Geology is himself forced to admit that rivers, such as the Thames for example, 'could never, not even in millions of years, have excavated the valleys through which they flow.' Now all these things are standing evidences that natural causes have, during vast epochs of geological operations, had frequent remissions and exacerbations of intensity. Only a little consideration is necessary to show that the uniformity of the planetary motions of force is true analogy to the case of the far different agencies concerned in geological dynamics. With reference to the newest formations which in this article we have chiefly had to consider, there seems little or no ground for maintaining a uniform scale of dynamic energy."

A remarkable parallel to the geological condition of the valley of the Somme is found in the valleys of Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire, Eng., as treated in the "Drift of the South-East of England, by Sir Roderick Murchison." To this work the *Review* briefly turns. So close is the parallel between the two regions in other respects that he "can hardly doubt that on further search it will yield specimens of flint weapons or tools." Yet this region, according to Sir Roderick, has evidently attained its present geological features "by short though turbulent agencies, performing we may imagine in a few years, the work for which the uniformitarian demands his hundreds or even thousand of centuries." The language of the geologist is very positive: "By no imaginable process of the long continued diurnal action, could any portion of this detritus have been gradually derived during ages from the low chalk hills." If this be true of the region described by Sir Roderick, there is no reason for attributing a period, so vast as is demanded for the parallel formation of the valley of the Somme.

The concluding sentences of the article are in weighty language. We put them also at the end of our article. The line of inquiry they indicate may hereafter lead to important modifications in prevalent ideas of geology. So far from jeopardizing the historical character of Scripture, the discovery of these remains may compel an entire re-construction of the science of geology far more in accordance with the plain teachings of the word of God.

"Professor Phillips, a writer of singular moderation, and perhaps even excessive caution with reference to geological controversies, has in one of his addresses from the chair of the Geological Society expressed the views which we hold with such precision and firmness that we willingly close our article by citing his words:—

"Do not geologists sometimes speak with needless freedom of the ages that have gone? Such expressions as that 'time costs Nature nothing' appear to me no better than the phrase which ascribes to Nature 'the horror of a vacuum.' Are we to regard as information of value the assertion that millions on millions of ages have passed since the epoch of life in some of the earlier strata? Is it not this abuse of arithmetic likely to lead to a low estimate of the evidence in support of such random conclusions, and of the uncritical judgment which so readily accepts them?"

BUT TWO PARTIES.

When the war broke out it was universally admitted that there could be but two parties in the country. Between rebels and their opponents, there could be no third party admitted as possible. All who did not heartily co-operate in putting down the war, must be classed with rebels, however they might deny the impeachment.

Various attempts have since been made to galvanize a third party into existence, but they have signally failed. It has been found impossible practically to draw distinctions, or to frame a platform embracing a cordial adherence to the national cause, which was not already covered by the policy of the Executive and of those, whether called Republican or Democrat, who are acting with it. Those who persisted in the effort to construct a so-called loyal anti-Administration platform, slid off invariably into

more or less open disloyalty, or disclosed the fact that their loyalty was a mere cloak, and their anti-Administration meant anti-North and anti-War.

There are but two parties to-day. The mask is fairly thrown off. The New York riots developed the true meaning of the anti-Administration feeling, not only among the lower classes, but among editors and politicians of respectability, including the Governor himself. The South recognizes the friendly nature of these demonstrations. They are too plain to be mistaken. What can a hindrance to a description mean but favor to the South? It is a clear military offence against the North, as plain as the encouragement of desertion from our ranks, or the conveying of stores, arms and information to the rebels. The potent watchword of the rebellion—State Sovereignty—is actually upon the tongues of these men. They sympathize fully with the principles at the bottom of the rebellion; if, from motives of self-aggrandizement they desire the Union to be preserved, it is on condition that Southern principles, institutions, and policy become dominant.

We dread the success of these partisans fully as much as we should dread the success of the rebellion. We deem it as much a duty to pray for their discomfiture as for that of rebels in arms. We feel that Christian citizens, now that they are understood, should sift themselves in ward meetings and primary gatherings, and in every possible way to expose and frustrate their devices, to reveal their true character to the unwary, and to overwhelm them in all their schemes for obtaining political power. We do not see how any true Christian can feel differently about men who wink at rebellion in the South, and anarchy in the North, who would cripple the arm of the Executive in his righteous endeavors to maintain the ordinance of civil government, and who would pervert the just and noble policy of the nation to a cringing acquiescence in the demands of the slave-masters of the South.

Will they succeed? Remember, they appeal to some of the strongest and most inveterate prejudices of the multitude, who are as numerous in many parts of the country as the thinking and the prudent. The hatred and jealousy of the Irish Catholic towards the negro, the antipathy of the cowardly towards the draft, and the hostility of the covetous towards the taxes, afford an unparalleled combination of circumstances most inviting to the powers of perversion and misrepresentation possessed by the unscrupulous party leader. Upon these topics they ring their ceaseless charges. They hope to make the war with its necessary burdens defeat the war. They will make fair professions of loyalty. They will deceive and mislead many.

The safety of our country, the security of our homes demands that they be crushed. The friends of rebellion in the North must be put down, or the victories of our armies in the South will be of no avail. While our soldiers overtake them in the South, by force of arms, let us do our part and crush them at the ballot-box in the North. It is the same enemy in both sections, let him be treated substantially and alike in both.

American Presbyterian and Geneva Evangelist.

New Publications.

HOSPITAL TRANSPORTS. A Memoir of the Embarkation of the Sick and Wounded from the Peninsula of Virginia in the Summer of 1862. Compiled and published at the request of the Sanitary Commission. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 16mo, pp. 267.

This elegantly executed volume gives us a view, from the notes of the Sanitary Commission's agents written upon the spot, of the great service rendered by this agency to the multitudes of sick and wounded in our army on the Peninsula. That disastrous campaign caused an immense amount of suffering among the soldiers. The preparations of the government for the emergencies which arose were wholly inadequate, and the thoroughly organized, prompt and devoted attentions of the Sanitary Commission saved thousands of lives besides mitigating a vast amount of suffering. The volume is limited to the services rendered by the agents of the Commission on Transports, and opens a novel chapter in the history of suffering endured by our brave soldiers, and of the means used to relieve it. One or two passages seem to contain a fling at religious matters: pp. 19, 24. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

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ter, which are always in place. It should be remembered that we have men in the army—educated, reading, thinking men, many of whom have been more than two years deprived from any access to a library. Let individual friends, who may read this and have a book they would wish a husband, son, brother or friend in camp to read; yet no book in which to send—wrap the same in a strong paper, leaving one end open, direct it as a letter, paying the postage which will be but a trifle, and in almost every instance it will reach the soldier safely and speedily.

MILITARY EXECUTION.

Although familiar with scenes of wholesale slaughter, instantaneous death, with all possible forms of human mutilation, yet unexpressedly sad is it, almost even to trembling and sickness, to witness calm, quiet, and deliberate preparations being made to shoot a soldier—no volume is limited to the services rendered by the agents of the Commission on Transports, and opens a novel chapter in the history of suffering endured by our brave soldiers, and of the means used to relieve it. One or two passages seem to contain a fling at religious matters: pp. 19, 24. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION. A Sermon preached on the Sabbath succeeding the Secession Riots in New York City, July 19th, 1863. By William Alkman, Pastor of Hanover St. Church, Wilmington, Delaware.

The doctrines of this sermon, set forth with great perspicuity and force of Scriptural argument, are precisely those adopted by our Assembly in this city last May. We are glad to see these not only expounded, but recited with such cordiality by the people of Hanover Street Church.

AUSTIN ELLIOTT. By Henry Kingsley, author of "Ravenshoe." Boston: Ticknor & Fields. (Republication.) 12mo, pp. 352. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW for July contains: Napier's Memoirs of Claverhouse; Druids and Bardis; Modern Styles of Architecture; Louis Blanc's French Revolution; Sir George C. Lewis on Forms of Government; The Navies of France and England; Sources of the Nile; The Scots in France; the French in Scotland; Lyell on the Antiquity of Man. L. Scott & Co., 88 Walker St., New York. W. B. Zieber, 104 South Third St., Philadelphia.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE. No. 1003 for August 23d, contains: The Art of Travel in Europe; Our Female Sensation Novelists; The Sources of the Nile; United We Stand, Poetry; A Memorial; All Three; Literary Piracy. Littell, Son & Co., Boston. Sent postage prepaid for \$5. per annum, in advance.

THE CONTINENTAL MONTHLY for September contains: Southern Home of New England; Waiting for News, Poetry; Early History of Printing and the Newspaper Press in Boston and New York; Reconnoissance near Fort Morgan; Diary of Francis Krasinska; The Isle of Springs; The Great Rico; Japanese Foreign Relations; Was he Successful? By Kimball, &c. Charles Godfrey Leland and Edmund Kirke have withdrawn from the editorial management of the Continental. New York: John F. Trow

THE PROPHECIES. Double number for July and August. Philadelphia: W. Z. Hartbert, 112 North Tenth Street.

News of our Churches.

Presbyterian.

Home Missions.—The North Church, Buffalo, Rev. Henry Smith, D. D. pastor, contributed \$1000 to this cause recently against \$471 last year. "A. M. S." in the Evangelist says: "Upon God's altar was laid this freewill offering; the gift seemed most cheerful. It is due that people to say that not a single person was urged to give. In canvassing the congregation, some of the alder assisted; one brother gave his time for three successive days. We shall not forget those days of cheerful toil and Christian intercourse. Dr. Smith was most deeply interested in securing results. He occupied his own pulpit on Sabbath evening, and gave his people a sermon on Home Missions that will not be forgotten by those who heard it."

Blackburn Theological Seminary.—The annual examination of the school, at Carlisleville, Ill., and the meeting of the Trustees (as we learn from The Reporter), took place July 7th. The school has been, during the last year, under the charge of R. B. Minton, A. M. The number of youth in attendance has been much larger than ever before. The Board of Trustees had barely a quorum in attendance. The President of the Board, Major-General John M. Palmer, is discharging his military duties with the army of the Cumberland; Rev. Edward McMillan is also with his regiment, acting as army chaplain. The report of the Secretary shows the sale of some 400 acres of land within the year, at an average of about \$10 per acre. The report of the Treasurer shows receipts from land sales, principal and interest, to the amount of nearly \$7,500. The expenditures were less than \$1,400. Robert B. Minton continues as Principal of the Academic Department. Rev. J. C. Downer is continued as Secretary and Agent.

Churches in the Lake Superior Region.—A correspondent of the Cincinnati Herald speaks of two of our churches in these remote but important portions of our country:

At the Sault Ste. Marie, there is a little Church organization connected with the (N. S.) Presbyterian Church. I want to call the attention of the Seaman's Society to this point, as one which they ought to occupy. All the boats which navigate Lake Superior must spend some hours in getting through the canal. A faithful energetic man could visit every vessel, and supply all the sailors and boatmen with religious reading. He might also preach for the little Church here.

At Marquette, we find Dr. Stevens, of our branch of the Church, with a little band of twenty-five members, who are to be estimated in importance, not by their numbers, but by their zeal and devotion, and sacrifices for Christ. They have built a comfortable little church, and have paid for it. They have always paid their minister's salary without any aid from the Home Mission Committee, and are working and praying with much success in the good cause."

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