THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1865.

Miscellaneous.

PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE PREPARATION AND CAREER OF PAUL.

BY THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY.

I have ever felt that, among all the visible interpositions of God's providence in history, sone is so clear, or so worthy of our admiration, as the preparation and eareer of the young man Saul That we may the better see this, let us briefly review the situation of the Church and the world in the time at which we have arrived. Th/ Church, built upon the foundation of the old covenant, and destined to carry God's building to its completion, has exated the bitter hatred of Judaism proper. This latter must either wane before it, or orush it. This is one great enigma to be solved : to fuse into one the strictness of Judaism and the belief in Jesus Christ. But look again. The Gospel is for all mankind; is to be received by the persuaded reason, to become wisdom to the enlightened intellect, to feed the yearnings of the loftiest spirit; and the intelligent nations of heathendom are facing the new religion in all the pride of highly cultivated intellect, and flushed with the triumphs of transcendent genius. A second problem then is, to fuse into one the simplicity which is in Christ and the subtleties of human philosophy; to show that He is made to man the highest wisdom, and that the discourse concerning Him can take up into itself all the materials, of which ages of the training of the human understand-ing have taught the use. There yet remains a third difficulty-less in dimensions and character, but not less needful to be overcome. We are treating of a time in the world's history when human life was of small account, and personal safety can hardly be said to have existed. Any human instrument undertaking the practical solution of either of these great problems, must soon have been borne down by hostile influences, and crushed in the attempt.

Now let us again review our ground. In the fusing of Christianity and Judaism, what and who is needed? No shallow observer of the customs and prejudices of Judaism will serve our purpose; nor, on the other hand, any who shall have fallen short in his estimate of the entire freedom of Christianity, and the full extent of its encroachments on Judaism. The man whom we seek must be a pure Jew by birth, and by education imbued with the fullest and deepest knowledge both of the law itself, and of that fabric of human traditional interpretation which the Rabbis had built up around it.

Then as to our second requisite. It will obviously be hard to combine in one man the endowments which we have just men- The congregations, especially in the even tioned, with this other, no less necessary, ing, were numerous and respectable. Into that he should have been versed in the both services a considerable ceremonial dis-Greek tongue, which was then the univer-sal vehicle of thought and argument; play was introduced. The afternoon service should have been trained in Gentile habits | came to an abrupt termination. At seven of joining thought to thought; and should o'clock (says the Manchester Examiner) a have acquired that degree of acquaintance with heathen literature, which might enable him to dispute with effect in Grecian schools and among Grecian audiences. Our third difficulty could only be over-

If we ask what were the outward charac- pilgrims of the night. This piece was teristics of one who was to do so mighty a decidedly operatic, but it was perhaps the work, we find them summed up by himself most effective part of the sermon. At the in representing the aspect of him by his conclusion of the chanting Father Ignatius enemies :- his bodily presence was weak, | came to the front of the platform and rehis speech was contemptible. He was quested a couple of ill-mannered youths to afflicted, at all events from the time of his remove their hats, which, after a few grins, conversion, with a nervous malady, accom-panied probably with feebleness of sight, of from the narrative of the Nativity, and which he speaks as his thorn in the flesh, a preached a sermon which was partly narramessenger of Satan sent to buffet him; and tive and partly laudation of the Virgin of which, when he prayed repeatedly that Mary. For the first three-quarters of an it might be removed from him, the Lord hour the discourse was listened to with spoke as weakness, wherein His strength | marked attention, but some of the audience was to be perfected. Nor must the won- standing at the end of the room got derful endurance and self-spending be impatient, and commenced walking out. omitted, which have rendered St. Paul one The preacher earnestly, and at times of the most notable among men. What a eloquently, urged the claims of Mary, rerecord of his labors and sufferings has he marking that if we accepted the Saviour, given us in that summary in the Second we must accept her too; and that God Epistle to the Corinthians! How he ever without her was an avenging judge, but came to be "Paul the Aged," might be with her, our merciful friend. In the matter of marvel, did we not remember course of this argument, he made use of a who was conserving him, and for what long Latin quotation, and this being uninend. All elements of danger, and details telligible, it was hissed by three or four of adventure, all anxieties and toils, seem young men who had strolled in after the summed up in his one person. Europe service commenced. The preacher stopped and Asia are full of him. "From Jeru- and said he was astonished. They were salem round about unto Illyricum," is but met to worship God, and he should not his note of journey made half way. The proceed if there were any more interrupdeserts have seen him struggling with their sand-storms; the rivers have been breasted loud eries of "shame" and "order." The by his arm : the deep has held him, hour after hour, drifting solitary on its surface. Again and again ocean has cast him ship- the reply was laughter and an imitation of wrecked to land, and land has yielded him, full of fresh holy enterprise, to ocean. Disputing in the synagogue, working at the hair-cloth loom, singing at midnight in the proceeded, but, in the midst of the senprison, kneeling, and mingling his tears tence there was a sudden disturbance, with his farewell prayers on the Syrian or caused by a large portion of the audience Milesian shore, preaching amidst the mar-ble temples on Mars' Hill at Athens, thanking God and taking courage on the broad the final, "And now to God the Father,' stones of the Appian Way; clanking his the preacher, without another word, con-chain as he writes in his hired house at cluded the sermon. The Hundredth Psalm Rome; where, and in what employ, do we not find this strange fervent man, this vessel of God's election for the second founding of His Church?

grasped with his own hand, and rescued. from the ranks of foes and persecutors, for a few hisses. his own service.

ROMANISM IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The following are the two extracts from the London Record, referred to in the communication of our London correspondent, as illustrating the progress of the Romanizing tendency in the Church of England. FATHER IGNATIUS IN MANCHESTER.

Father Ignatius held two services on Sabbath in the Manchester Corn Exchange. distant sound of chanting was heard through the door leading from the ante-room, which, becoming louder and louder, announced that the singers were approaching the hall. Several persons jumped from their seats, said, corresponds very nearly with that of a attached to it, except him from arbitrary the room so as to form a free passage to the also black, was of a somewhat peculiar punishment at the caprice of petty provin- processionists. First came a tall young form. It was brimless, and in outline ex-

pretty chorus about angels welcoming the preacher stamped his foot, and asked them ter. how they dared so behave themselves, and a dog bark, the whole of the interruption being confined to not more than a dozen persons. Seeing this, Father Ignatius then jumping upon their seats to ascertain the meaning of a scuffling at the door. With was then sung, one or two chants were gone through, and singing "Nunc Dim-ittis," the choristers left the platform. Father Ignatius, who was kneeling before Such, then, was he whom the Lord the altar while his assistants filed off, went last, and his disappearance was signalled by

THE EAST GRINSTEAD SISTERHOOD.

The Guardian reports the proceedings on the laying of the foundation-stone of some new buildings for Dr. Neale's "well-known Sisterhood," at East Grinstead. It appears that there are now "16 confirmed sisters, or sisters of the black veil, and 18 probationers, or sisters of the white veil." On this occasion there was a procession, headed by a "Processional Cross, borne by a member of the confraternity, in cassock

and surplice." Among the banners were those of "St. Margaret," "St. Mary," "St. Michael," and of the "Holy Ghost," the last named "borne by a deacon and two choristers." The list of persons in the procession included "E. Popoff, and the Archimandrite Stratuli, D.D. (of the Holy Eastern Church.") "The clergy were of course habited in their surplices and hoods; and nearly all of them wore red or white stoles. About one-half had birettas, and the rest the ordinary trencher caps. The Archimandrite Stratuli, whose rank, it is

cial officers, and give him the right of ap- man dressed in a black robe, over which actly resembling a well-shaped architectural In the course of further details was a short white muslin frock. He held capital."

choice, to bring about the greatest revolu-duets, and trios and to each there was a "THOSE DEAR OLD PRAYER-MEET-INGS." It was a beautiful and stately dwelling

upon which we looked On three sides of it inviting verandahs opened upon garden or lawn, where cooling fountain, or creeping roses, or tempting fruits, each in their turn, enchanted the sight, or gratified the taste.

As we wandered amidst this wealth of beauty, we approached our aged friend. who was seated near a side door, and exclaimed, "How beautiful! Everything that wealth could do, it has done to beautify your home."

Bending toward us, with quivering lip and moistening eye, he replied with tones we can never forget: "I would give it all for one of those dear old prayer. meetings."

Quick as thought our minds were carried back to a little village far toward the setting sun, where, in the pride of early manhood, he had made for himself a home, and where, with a heart consecrated to his Master's service, he had sought out those who in other days and more eastern homes had entered, as laborers, into the vineyard of his Lord.

We remember how he had gathered these praying ones about him, and a little church was organized, of which he was the leading officer and an unwavering suppor-We seemed to hear once more his earnest pleadings for his pastor, and the flock over which he watched. We seemed to see him again in the

Sabbath-school, a living active Christian teacher, never finding the hour long enough to weary his class, or satisfy his love for the study of God's word.

How many years of rich enjoyment and sweet refreshings from the presence of God had thus been granted to him and his beloved partner, as they were training an only daughter to follow in their footsteps. But that only child was at length wedded to one whose enterprise and skill could not be estrained to the village of D-

Scarcely had the pledge been given, that be admirably adapted to its purpose. . . Many first-rate tunes, arranged and printed so as to be easily used. It will be a most acceptable book in fam-ilies, mission churches, and, if our taste was the rule, the daughter should never be separated from loving parents, when they were at length persuaded to break away from the church and people they so much loved, and take up their abode in the splendid home of our Church have just issued a volume which we apprehend is destined to become highly popular among of which we have spoken.

our churches. It is entitled, 'Social Hymn and Tune How was their faith tried, and how were Book,' and is designed for the lecture room, pravertheir hearts grieved, to find no place of meeting, family-circle, and mission church. It is one of the neatest and most tastetul volumes of the kind, which we have ever met with. Although a 16mo of worship within their reach, such as they loved-but a religion of forms and ceremo-512 pages, it is by no means bulky, while the print is nies, inviting their children to its embrace. clear and distinct, and sufficiently large for commo Day after day and week after week our use. Most of the hymns are from the Church Psalmfriend pined for "those dear old prayerist, and by means of the index with its references, every hymn can be identified in the two books. The meetings. tunes and hymns are arranged throughout the vol-

Every attention that filial love could uggest, was cheerfully rendered, but wealth or beauty or luxury could not fill the longing soul, or bring back those sweet communions with kindred spirits, in "the dear old prayer-meetings.'

taste as an article of manufacture. . . . In the Hymns given, we find those that are loved in the We have seen those in old age, who, dechurches. . . . We hail with satisfaction a book so well selected and so well arranged." prived of earthly friends and support, have found themselves without earthly homes, save such as municipal laws or charity had provided for them; but not for any such, even, have our sympathies been called forth with such power.

How can wealth, or pomp, or gowns and bands, or silvery tones, and finished sentcome by one who should possess the privi- and there was a general straining of necks mitred Abbott in the Western Church, was which has for years commingled with others lege, at this time not so common as it after- and eyes towards the side door from which attind to be deterned and the waist, with a longings into mengational is own spiritual which might, by the peculiar immunities emerge. Tables had been placed round purple scarf by way of girdle. His hat, Congregationalist

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peal to the great central power at Rome.

cations were united in Saul of Tarsus. First, he was of unexceptional Jewish descent: an Hebrew of Hebrews. Then he was brought up at Jerusalem, under Gamaliel, the most distinguished Pharisee of his time. Even more : he had been himself a keen and unsparing foe of Jesus and his Gospel. He had, for himself and others, exaggerated to the utmost the antagonism between Christianity and Judaism. He had looked down, in his anxiety to prove their irreconcileableness, into the gulf which parted | them carried a mahogany crook, something them, and was not likely to attempt lightly like a bishop's crossier. The procession or flimsily to bridge it over. He was the slowly walked round the room, chanting man, if ever there was one, to set forth the full freedom of the Gospel of Christ, and Lyne's immediate attendants, who belonged its independence of Mosaic customs and to the Norwich monastery, the processionordinances. For these qualities, he had ists belong to Manchester, and are memhimself hated and persecuted it.

events, many important years of his vouthful life, at Tarsus, one of the principal seats of the audience rose to their feet as soon of Grecian learning. There he had ac-quired mastery of the Greek language, as they remained for some time in that then spoken and written in the East : and position. Upon the wall at the back of the had read those authors whose sayings he afterwards quoted in dispute with Gentiles. and in his epistles to Grecian churches. Educated half at Jerusalem, half in Cilicia, his mind had become accustomed to that form of logical argument in words, and of | ing tapers, and before it were vases of rich joining thought to thought, from which the pure Jewish mind was alien.

And add to all this, that as a native of Tarsus he was born with the rights of companies, took up their position to the ex-Roman citizenship, which others, even in treme right and left. Ignatius was in the high stations, had to acquire at much cost.

qualifications. Yet these were to the full waiting upon their chief, and apparently as marvellous. Hardly ever was man born | making themselves generally useful. Their with more qualities tending to enforce per- | backs to the audience and their heads bent suasion, or to acquire influence over his low, the occupants of the platform comsussion, or to acquire innuence over his low, the occupants of the platform com-tellows. Ardent, sympathetic, universal in his regards, and able to cast himself into every other man's position; within certain the refrain of which was, "May Jesus Christ be praised." A considerable numlimits becoming all things to all men, but ber of the andience (chiefly ladies) took absolutely immoveable as to compromise part in the monotonous song, and joined in tors, whose bowed heads and whispered beyond these limits; carrying all in his the salutations incessantly made to the blessings told how mighty had been the heart, and making every man's griefs and image. Ignatius, during the latter portion change effected by a truly Catholic work joys his own; with tears for every sorrow, of the hymn, took a turn or two round the done in a Catholic way." and glowing terms of endearment and con- platform, swinging a censer. The two gratulation ever on his tongue; master, at boys held up his train, displaying a crim- the movement for a Romeward revolution the same time, of the most melting exhor- son lining with wide blue border, which of our Church and people. tation, and the keenest and most delicate when turned back upon the white surplices irony; pouring out his words, which made a showy effect. He then offered up orowded one another to keep pace with the a prayer in Latin, and some responses rapidity of his phases of thought, flying tollowed, many among the audience joining from proof to proof, and from one indignant in and using what appeared to be the Comrefutation to another; sometimes seemingly mon Prayer. These preliminary exercises forgetful of his main subject, while he lasted over half an hour, and were all pursues word after word which have sprung sung. On the front benches were several up along the path of his disputation, then young women to whom the service was up along the paul of his disputation, then found is a whom the service was whom I had trusted all my life, and whom I returning to it again, in like manner again familiar, and who were prominent in the regarded as true and good men, give themreturning with again, in has manned again in the prominent in the to desert it: till at last all these off-lying responses and genuflexions. The singing, ideas, and images, and allusions, are bound on the whole, was not well done. There up together in the majestic and overwhelm-was an exception in a beautifully-written up together in the majestic and overwheren, how and by the verses were sume site resting the night." devil in him, and that nothing but the insti-ing conclusion. Such was the mind, and hymn, entitled the "Pilgrims of the Night." devil in him, and that nothing but the insti-tutions of law and religion keep it from breaking conclusion. Such was the God made The verses were sung alternately as solos, ing out.

I need hardly say that all these qualifi- aloft a large gilt crucifix. Two and two, we read :- The banner of St. Margaret is several others followed, similarly dressed, charged with an exquisitely embroidered

Again, he was born, and spent, at all Order," and they appeared to be persons of activity. One cannot avoid looking at this the cross. On either side were tall burnflowers and some smaller tapers. Entering

upon the platform the processionists bowed low before the altar, and, dividing into two head and closing in the rear, and the swelcentre, and his two gorgeously dressed I have said nothing as yet of personal brethren on either side, the incense bearers

veiled sisters, mothers of religious houses, troops of choristers, and a cloud of priests in cassock, stole and biretta, with the symbol of our redemption raised aloft at the ling chorus of hundreds of voices shouting the noble strain-'Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered : let them also that hate Him flee before Him.' Time was, when such a demonstration as this would have driven East Grinstead into a frenzy, and have elicited the accustomed protest in the form of bricks and stones; but the patient work of the Sisterhood has conquered bigotry and prejudice, and they passed on their way through the crowded town and between files of reverend specta-

And so, says the Record, proceeds apace

THE PRESIDENT ON DEPRAVITY. -In a recent conversation with a minister, President Johnson said: "When I used to hear you ministers preach on total depravity, I always thought that you were exaggerating a theo-logical doctrine without warrant in fact. But I tell you, sir, I believe it; you are in the right of it. I have seen so many men in whom I had trusted all my life, and whom I selves over to the worst crimes-lying, per-jury, fraud, treason-in this hellish rebellion, that I am satisfied that every man has the

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