

## PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, NÖVEMBER 15, 1866.

structure of pigeons by artificial culture under the hand of man; actually, the varieties of pouters and fan-tails in pigeons

DARWINIANISM. The zeal of the student of nature for fresh discoveries, and for broader generalilations, if not properly balanced by cool ness of judgment, may impel him to rash speculations, and make him the victim of hold but crude theories. He will be car ried away by the glitter of some specious povelty, and will reckon that a great gain to science which may really be a backward step, and an injury to truth. This is one cource of error in scientific investigations. Again, because the Bible, in some few ally tending to disappear, when the art is passages, seems to cross the conclusions of modern science, many scientific men are possessed with a spirit of opposition and jealousy toward its teachings and influence. Thus another misleading element enters into their investigations. Conclusions, which seem to militate against Scripture, are peculiarly welcome to these men. They are predisposed to follow a line ot investigation which promises to issue in such

ger, John W. Mears, Editor and Publisher.

American Presbuterian.

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We can but view Darwinianism as the fruit of both these false tendencies of modern science. It is the crude offspring of a mind apparently blindly zealous for enlarging the bounds of knowledge, and propounding baseless but startling theories. which only credulous and rash men could accept as probably true, and which owe no small part of their popularity to their manifest irreconcileable antagonism to the facts and doctrines of Scripture. If they had not been found serviceable to infidelity, we do not think they would have been so eagerly embraced and so widely disseminated. Zealous and enthusiastic scholars might have cherished them in the privacy of their closets, but they could scarcely have become the staple of popular lectures and reviews, and editorials in cheap newspapers.

results.

Darwinianism is a daring, unsupported theory, commended only by the skill and learning with which it has been elaborated, and by the high scientific reputation of its author, the English naturalist, Charles Darwin. It is theory, and from the very nature of the case, it seems impossible it should be anything else but theory. It cuts loose from all human or divine testimony as to the origin of living things. It

are the most powerful and telling illustrations they can bring, of anything approximating their great law of development and transmutation, the fruits of which they

mal world. That omnipotent and universal law of nature has so completely hidden itself away, as to be capable of detection only in an uncertain and partial instance; which has the two-fold disadvantage of being artificial, and not, strictly speaking, a process of nature at all; and furthermore, of continuremoved and nature is suffered to have her. own way. It shows us nature tending to obliterate rather than perpetuate distinctions. But because pigeon-fanciers can make a slight and transient impression upon the qualities of that bird, therefore the Darwinians would have us believe that man is the lineal descendant of an oyster. This is pretty much the sum of the argument, so far as facts are concerned; about as brilliant a case of the a minori ad majus figure as can be found anywhere out of the

books. On such infinitesimal evidence we are asked to believe a theory so all-embracing, so overwhelming in its results, so antagonistic to the religious faith and the instincts of man.

The most serious difficulty which meets this theory is found, then, in the immeasurable superiority of man over all brute animals whatsoever. Darwinianism cannot admit any chasm in its process of development. Somewhere in the line of succession the brute nature begot the moral, intellectual nature of man, capable of communion with God. We boldly deny the possibility human. The thing is not only repulsive but incredible. And nature herself, as if to set at defiance such wrong-headed and

preposterous attempts, shows us the closest approximations to human reason in animals not at all allied to man in physical conformation. According to Darwin, man must have been developed in the line of the ape and the monkey. These approach closest in form and structure to man. But it belongs to animals as unlike man as the dog, nearest to him in what constitutes his chief listinction, his reason, his moral nature The analogies for which this wild theory John Morrissey, a man whose presence in calls, fail in the most striking cases. The our legislative halls will be an insult to the monkey tribe is cunning and imitative, but decent people of the land, and will prove it cannot be made to talk like a parrot; it has not the constructive faculty of the beaver; it has none of the nobleness of the St. Bernard or the Newfoundland dog, or of the common cur that whines and starves over the grave of his master; it has none of the surprising sagacity of the elephant. Surely, if fellow-feeling is any test of kindred, we are more nearly allied to these superior brutes than to those indicated by Darwinianism. The most striking analogies in physical structure are, and must remain, analogies merely. Only rash speculators will convert them into terms of relationship, and base sweeping generalizations and universal systems upon them. And man, in search of his pedigree, will find no law of nature counter-indicating the sublime teachings of Scripture, that he and all other living things owe their existence and their main characteristics to the creative word of God, and that the main characteristic of man is the possession of a quality which puts an impassable chasm between him and all other creatures; he is made in the image of God. It will be a melancholy day when men consent, at the beck of modern science, to renounce that high title, and to reckon themselves in nowise essentially different from the beasts which perish.

point to certain slight modifications, induced | circumstances of great cities, they should | be led to roll up against them? Or shall | mans are patiently biding their time, which | been a priest in Rome, is well acquainted in the external appearance and internal be entrusted with the unrestricted enjoy- the State join hands with the virtuous, the ment of the franchise. Blind devotion to intelligent and the respectable classes, the a principle should not lead us to ignore tax-payers and those who have something the imminent probability, or even the actual to lose in the city population, and by timely occurrence, of the most disastrous results of | arrangements put the ignorant and reckless this policy, in cases which may rightly be masses under their control?

regarded as exceptions. Or must we silently suffer great communities to pass and pressing character. And however we claim to embrace the whole existing ani- and to remain under the control of the answer them, they plainly admonish us notoriously vile, corrupt, debased and against loosening any of the restraints of ignorant masses, that throng their filthy virtue which have not yet been thrown. courts and lanes, and that are so strong in down-against any step by which the downnumbers, and so manipulated by partizan ward course of the masses of our cities may leaders, as to outvote the decent, the re- be accelerated. They warn us to take care spectable and the virtuous? Shall we of our Sabbaths, as the very key and citasubmit to see government become the del of the position of order in our cities. If engine of the bad for the oppression and we in Philadelphia wish to hasten the spoliation of the good, because it is one of course of our city toward the monstrous the supposed necessary evils of our politi- extravagance, corruption and misgoverncal system, and because of some vague faith | ment of New York, we need but to yield we have, that, in the operation of the sys- | to the plots of grasping corporations and tem, the evils will work their own cure? Take the government of the city of New York for example. For open and an evil day for our city when these plots unblushing corruption, for public legalized | come to pass.

robbery, for demagoguism of the most unscrupulous sort, that government has, for the last twenty years, been a bye word and a hissing, a scandal to republican institutions, a stumbling block in the way of freedom and democracy through the world. We had no more than finished writing this sentence, when it was flashed

through the Atlantic cable, that the London Times of Monday, November 5th, was exposing the corruption of the New York State and City government, and using it as a warning against the extension of political power in their own country. And as we continue to write, we are informed that the majority in New York city, at the recent election, in favor of maintaining the existing order of things, has actually increased of a brute becoming, or passing into, the fifty per cent. in two years, being nearly taken place; for it is a great event to forty-seven thousand last week, against Italy. thirty-five thousand in 1864. And we are

informed that one reason for this enormous increase, is to be found in the indignation of the mob, not against a proposed prohibitory law, but simply against the enforcement of a reasonable license law, regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. The From that city, too, goes to Congress a

These are questions of the most serious political demagogues among us to break down our State Sunday laws. It will be

FROM OUR ITALIAN CORRESPON-DENT

Peace once more prevails throughout the continent of Europe, however long it may last. The ratification of the treaty between Italy and Austria was accomplished at Turin, according to the king's express desire, where he appended his signature. The news caused little excitement, as it had so long been looked for, and, with the exception of salvos of cannon and flags hoisted on government buildings, there was no demonstration whatever. I went into town on the evening of the day when the intelligence was brought, expecting at least some sort of illumination, but there was nothing to celebrate the great event which had just

The terms of the treaty of Vienna are decidedly favorable to her. She has not got all she wanted ; for, at one time, high hopes were entertained of acquiring not only the Tyrol, but also Istria and Dalmatia, which would have made the Adriatic an Italian lake. These lofty pretensions had, governing power of New York City is, of course, to be abandoned, and the fertile therefore, in the hands of men unwilling fields of Venetia, one of the richest and to subject their liquor traffic to the control fairest provinces in central Europe, are now professional prize fighter, the well-known has been paid for it.

cannot now be far off. The Legion of | with the mysteries of that harlot city, and Antibes, as it is called, 1000 French sol- is besides a master in controversy. A new diers who have undertaken to defend the school for boys has been opened at Poma-Pope, arrived at Civita Vecchi some time ret in the Waldensian Valleys. The brethago; but what are they against so many?

people, ground down as they are to the the point of retiring-failing health the would wisely leave the dwelling before he is crushed in the tumbling ruins.

knows how soon there may be a change in haps more, in the room, which was crowded, that quarter. People talk of his taking all of them won over from the Roman Cathorefuge in Malta; if so, how strange that he should be driven to seek an asylum from Protestant heretical England.

## THE SICILIAN TROUBLE.

Your readers are doubtless acquainted with the details of the insurrection at Palermo, which followed so closely the conclusion of hostilities in the North. Active measures were at once taken to restore order, which was only accomplished after considerable bloodshed. If the outbreak had taken place a month or six weeks earlier, when all the troops were up to the front, the consequences might have been serious. Its immediate cause was the confiscation of church property. Now it so happens that two-thirds of the island is owned by ecclesiastics, and they were so indignant at the legal spoliation of their goods, and the dismissal of the monks from their snug retreats, that to revenge them selves on so cruel a government and, if possible, avert threatened ruin by estab lishing a government of their own, they led on the bigoted and superstitious Sicil ians to revolt. Through the apathy and indifference of the authorities in Palermo, the horse, and the elephant, to approach of law, or to suspend it on the Lord's day universally acknowledged to be a prize well they almost succeeded in possessing themworth possessing, at the low price which selves of the city. It was their expressed intention, also, to kill all the Protestants in It is true pain mingles with the pleasure the place, that they might purify their -the reason, I believe, of the absence of island home from every kind of profanity. any public rejoicing on the consummation Something similar was dreaded in the Neaof the peace. The French interference, in politan provinces, and many soldiers were the form of go-between, has been a sharp sent there, but, though the brigands have thorn in the side of the Italians, after long done much mischief in the neighborhood of and loud boasting of being able to do for Salerno, there has been no attempt at inthemselves. Custozza and Lissa are ranksurrection. ling wounds far from healed. Admiral CHOLERA; SUPERSTITION. Cholera has this year again appeared on the shores of the Mediterranean. Genoa, Naples, Trieste, Venice, and now Palermo, have been visited by it. It has been most severe in Naples, and threatens to be bad in Palermo. When it broke out here. about the middle of August, the people fled in hundreds from the town, the streets were almost deserted, many of the shops shut, business was at a stand. The ignorance of the lower classes is most deplorable. They believed the doctors scattered poison in the air, causing so many to die. Bands of men paraded the streets at night, stopping before every druggist's shop and threatening death and destruction to those who were dispensing the medicines within, I heard of one woman, who, being seized with cholera, was immediately carried off to the hospital; but so firmly persuaded was she that the doctor meant to poison her with his stuff, that she clenched her teeth and would allow nothing to be put into her mouth, not even broth, and she continued thus until she died. We have lost the Waldensian minister here, who died of cholera after five hours' illness. His was the first death in that congregation. How mysterious the adorable providence of God, that he should remove one who was doing so much good in this town, and whose sphere of doing good among the native population was, perhaps, greater than that of any other, at the very time, too, when there is need of more laborers to go and work in the province of Venetia, that such as he, an earnest and able evangelist, should be called away !

ren of Barletta have had to submit to petty There is wide-spread discontent among the persecution for some time, but better days seem now at hand and progress may be lowest depth. Brigands are breaking out hoped for. I worshipped last Sabbath in all directions with unwonted daring, so evening with the congregation of the Free that there is no protection for life or pro- | Italian Church here. They meet in a long perty in the country. The treasury is al- and lofty room in the very centre of the most exhausted; gold is at 10 or 12 per town. There is no pulpit-only a simple cent. Cardinal Antonelli, whose resigna- table. Sig. Mazarella was sitting at it tion I erroneously reported some time ago when I went in. After a hymn had been as an accomplished fact, is really at last on sung, as Italians only can sing, and a short prayer offered up, the fourth chapter of assigned, falling house the real, reason; he Ephesians was given out by the preacher. Verse by verse it was read by the pecple themselves, some of whom had to be cor-And where can the Pope look for help? rected in their reading. Then the text Austria, his staunch and steadfast friend, was announced : "But ye have not so who both would and could have aided him, learned Christ," in the regular course is now shut out, by treaty, from any inter- of exhortation. Christ alone was the ference. Spain has too many internal theme of the eloquent preacher's discourse. troubles to give effective help; the health After prayer and praise, we separated.

of Napoleon is evidently failing, and no one There were one hundred and twenty, or perlie Church. Some, many of them, let us hope, members of the Church of the First Born, which is written in heaven.

GENOA, Oct. 22, 1866.

### THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

The vote of twelve States was recorded on Tuesday of last week, substantially coneluding the great struggle for the control of the Fortieth Congress. Although the result was foreshadowed by the elections of October, and the interest was so much the ess, yet it was waited for with the most profound and solemn expectation. The extraordinary efforts made by the President and his party, the merciless official proscription they practised, the tergiversation of distinguished members of the Republican party, the uncertainty as to the depth of the moral convictions of the people, threw enough elements of doubt into the conflict to make men anxious for the announcements of the morning after election. And never had the winged and harnessed lightning-couriers, flashing from end to end of the land, a more astonishing tale of a united people, of a deeply rooted, unawed, unaltered public sentiment. to tell than then. In one many-voiced chorus, it broke from Kansas to Cape Cod. from New Jersey to Minnesota, so emphatic and so unanimous, that at the breakfasttable in the White House, there was no room to doubt the unshaken purpose of the American people to abide by the policy which its chosen standard-bearers had deserted. The force of sound Christian principle carried the day. The healthy aroused conscience of the people was at work. That profound sentiment of justice that lies deep in the national heart, embodied itself in this overwhelming vote, given in the face of all the arguments, which heretofore have been relied on to corrupt and to control it. Base men, accustomed to scoff at all considerations but those of political expediency, find themselves estimated at their due worth. Their bread and butter argument quite exhausted their logical resources, and at last, a party has arisen upon whom that argument is worse than ineffectual, as it has but made their majorities in the aggregate larger. Witness the great States of the northwest, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, in which the Republicans have gained nearly 60,000 over the majorities of 1864! The die is cast. The Northern States, with. Missouri and Tennessee, are a unit. The majority in the next Congress is at least as great on the side of justice, equality, and the vindication of the national honor and safety as in the present : and its sentiments will be more positive, and its action more prompt and decisive. The policy of the country, after this great trial, is settled for the century. Nulla vestigia retrorsum. Opponents should acquaint themselves with the fact, and cease the futile and discreditable business of hanging as clogs at the wheels of the national progress. The sentiment which prompted a crushed rebellion cannot be galvanised into lite and political sovereignty again. No dark plots, no coups d' etat, depending upon the co-operation of rebel States and designed to reinstate them in power, need now be cunningly contrived. The vast current. of popular opinion has quietly and effectu-

rejects utterly the specific creation of plants and animals as they are. It substitutes for the act of God the process of nature. Its key-word is development. Commencing with the appearance of animal life on the earth, Darwin's theory calls only for certain primitive organic forms of a very low order of existence, in comparison with which oysters would be highly developed animals. From these obscure germs, in the long process of countless ages, step by step, the lower and then the higher orders of animals were developed, each new and higher order owing its existence to a lower which preceded it; each lower order being the parent, through countless generations, of the higher that gradually grew out of it, and man being the last, and at present, the highest product in the series. Man is, therefore, the brother, not merely of every other man, but of every living thing; not merely of dogs and horses, but of apes and oysters; not merely the brother, but the direct lineal descendant of creatures that crawl in their slime; of brutes lower than the lowest that have merely sense and motion, of organisms to which the oyster was a masterpiece.

The bare statement of such a theory, if it be not its refutation, at least shows what an extraordinary demand it makes upon our belief. If an unfortunate victim of the nightmare should, the next morning, coolly require us to believe in the reality of his unnatural and harrowing imaginations, we would quietly dispose of his claims. There "Can scarcely be a wild dream of the night CAN GREAT CITIES BE LEFT TO in itself more repulsive and improbable than this Darwinian theory of the origin of man. The cultivated and intelligent man, of self-government are put to a severe test who has lost sight of his parents since early in the case of our large cities. In all these boyhood, will require stronger proof of the aggregations of population, the vicious and Edentity of those claiming such a relation- the ignorant elements are disproportionately thip, in proportion as they are beneath him numerous, active and powerful. A foreign in the scale of virtue, intelligence and re- population, composed to a large extent of <sup>spectability.</sup> And when Mr. Darwin wishes the most ignorant, degraded and impoverthe intelligent oreature, man, to believe ished classes at home, utterly unacquainted himself the lineal descendant of an ape or with the privileges and responsibilities of an oyster, he must be prepared with proof self-government, and a ready prey to the sufficient to satisfy us beyond reasonable arts of the unprincipled politician and doubt. To say nothing of difficulties demagogue, form a very large part of this thrown in the way by Scripture and tradi- city population. Out of 129,000 voters of tion, the protest of an instinctive self- New York city, 77,000 are foreigners, respect must be met and silenced by the nearly all of the class just described. strength of the evidence produced.

asked for proof of this extraordinary theory, safe, salutary and righteous, it may yet be they can give none-absolutely none. They a question, whether under the exceptional an overgrown commercial metropolis may calm that precedes the storm? The Ro- besides a lecturer, who, having formerly rejoicing. Prov xxix. 2.

# **GOVERN THEMSELVES ?**

It must be confessed that the principles

Now, if the universality of the elective When Mr. Darwin and his friends are franchise is admitted to be, on the whole,

not how favorable are our institutions to the rising of the poor man to respectability, but how vulgarity, coarseness and brute strength themselves can attain the highest seats of honor and responsibility in the land, through the indiscriminate suffrages of the mob. And on questions of State or National policy, it requires almost the unanimous verdict of the rural districts to reverse that of the city. If it were not for 11th of October, but the only thing done, the prevalence of pure religion and the best educational influences, giving the town and rural population of New York State singular eminence for intelligence, piety and fidelity to principle, the Empire State would lie at the mercy of the Irish Catholics, the German beer-drinkers and infidels. the Five Points mob and the unscrupulous demagogues who marshal and control them nardon. in the city of New York.

These facts are already well understood by the good people of that State and of the city, too. The appointment of the city police is put into the hands of the Governor of the State, and thus an important part of the sity government is removed from the control of the mob. But mayor and aldermen and judges of the courts, the machinery of assessing and collecting the enormous city taxes, and doubtless other functions, are within the power of the corrupt majority. A kingdom of enormous wealth and of vast commercial enterprise is thus put almost completely in control of a mob of the vilest elements that, perhaps, can be gathered in Christendom. And should this majority at any time become so great as to counterbalance that of the counties, an event which the late election reminds us may happen, the result would not only be disastrous to the city, but would be used, as far as possible, to unfetter the mob from any future control on the part of the rural districts.

Indeed, the question seems to involve more than simply that of the self-government of the cities. We are led to inquire, whether the mobs of our large cities shall control the State, and even the country, as well as their own homes. Shall the statutes of the State on vice and immorality be at the mercy of the possible majorities which the seething, untaught, reckless crowds of unusually, unnaturally quiet. Is it the

Persano, the hero (?) of the latter, has not yet been brought to trial. The Senate was, indeed, convened for this purpose on the after reading over the roll of senators, was to adjourn till the 22d. We shall see if another adjournment for an indefinite period will not be deemed necessary. The fact is, though popular opinion has already judged Persano, he happens to be one of the king's greatest favorites, who has hith. erto protected him and may procure him a

The Veneto has now become Italian territory. One after another, these famous fortresses. bristling with cannon, impregnable to any attacking host, have been surrendered to the Italians. No disturbance of any kind has taken place except at Verona. When the tri-color flag was raised on the Piazza of San Marco in Venice, a salute of 101 guns was fired from the citadel, and the shouts of the assembled multitude, almost wild with joy, were absolutely deafening. In the evening, there was a splendid illumi nation, which must have been a sight worth seeing in that interesting city. The Plebiscite will take place about the end of this week, and the king will make his public entry in the beginning of November. The treaty of peace between Italy and Austria will likely soon be followed by a treaty of commerce. This would be of immense advantage to both. Friendly feelings are rapidly springing up between those who so recently were deadly foes, so that instead of enemies they will soon be fast allies.

#### THE POPE NEXT.

As regards the northern provinces, the work of reconstruction is now complete; but until the intruder has been driven from the centre of the peninsula, it can scarcely be said that Italy is free from the Alps to the Adriatic. Private letters from Rome describe the state of things there as

## EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT.

There is really nothing to report of the evangelical movement, during the last two months. Things have gone on very quietly, indeed. The session of the Theological ally extinguished them. Yes ! let us have College in Florence has been opened with a National Thanksgiving. Let us sing our thirteen students; one of them, however, is | Te Deums. The righteous are in authorifrom Scotland. There are three professors, ty-the people have a divine warrant for