

His sincere but misjudging servants, the responsible authors of the schism, that they might eat the ble authors of the schism, that they might eat the fruit of their own rash sowing, has taken away—in the one case by death, and in the other by prostrat-ing disease,—the two honored brethren whom we put forward to guide our steps toward the goal of re-union. We mourn at such a time as this, the loss of those bright intellects, those warm hearts, those genial and conciliating manners, that could have offerted so much in smoothing for us the man have effected so much in smoothing for us the way of peace.

And I cannot but mention in this place, and on this occasion, that younger brother, whose active enterprising character had made him already well known to our Church; who stood with us a year ago, in all the vigor of his robust constitution, on the summit of Pilot Knob; and who would have come from his home by the Mississippi, to his ear-lier home on the banks of the Genessee, to mingle his greetings with ours. But an all-wise Providence called him away in the midst of his career. Others of us, who climbed with difficulty that iron summit, seemed far more likely to cease from our labors be-fore another Assembly, than he. Let us hasten to finish up our work, that we may leave the Church nearer her ideal perfection than we found her; that we may not lose our share in the blessing that comes on the peace-makers, and the further blessing that awaits those faithful servants whom the Lord when He comes shall find waiting and ready.

Miscellaneous.

DIVORCES.

The frequency of divorces is certainly becoming sufficiently scandalous in our country. Every day seems to add to the disgraceful statistics which, in this matter, stand recorded against us. It is well to be proud of the high point to which our civilization has attained, but it is worse than foolish to close our eyes to the wretched blotches which are, here and there, enstamped upon it. None are more vitiating to the moral tone of our behind her whole duty. social life, and at the same time more destructive to our fair fame in the eyes of the which arise from the prostitution of the sacred estate of marriage.

The causes of this foul disease in our otherwise elevated social being are variously judged of. By some they are mainly traced to the low view which the law seems to take of the marriage relation-calling it an agreement merely, or a civil contract. That a degrading tendency has arisen from this source there can hardly be any rocm to doubt. If this is taken as the full and complete view and wife, it is then, of course, the veriest plaything of every changing fancy, and at the mercy of every fitful gust of passion. But we have never learned that it was the design of the law, in holding marriage in the the legal eye, or by which it becomes incor-porated in the civil code and is brought under the regulative authority of law. Its moral and spiritual nature, as lying beyond this, is not necessarily denied. With this,

its nature; and we can very easily conceive how, in such cases, the way would be opened for the most irreverent feeling and reckless conduct in regard to it. The ignorance which such cases involve is, however, too great to induce the conviction that the mischief, from this Messenger. source, is very extended or wide-spread. We cannot therefore admit that the legal aspect of the marriage relation is by any means the main cause of the fearful divorce pest which is so rapidly spreading throughout the land.

A greater cause, in our view at least, lies in the facility by which these divorces are obtained. At this point the moral animus of the legal view comes to much bolder and ed men, but their training was strictly and clearer light. We cannot roll off the con- exclusively Jewish. Paul was a Roman citiviction that it involves a degrading practical infidelity. Facts, however much we may be sus, a city celebrated then and long before disposed to shun them, cannot be set aside. for its schools, and although he was brought The sacredness of the relation and its bind- up at the feet of Gamaliel, and belonged to The sacredness of the relation and its binding authority, as these lie in its divine and the strictest sect of the Jews, his education spiritual nature, lying back of its legal contract feature, seems to be almost entirely disregarded. It makes no account of what God has done in the act of marriage, and what, in the nature of the case, the law can have no power to undo, except on the condition which God has revealed. The law has recklessly, it would seem, taken the whole subject, in this view, under its control; and this too, plainly without any care to ascertain the will of God in regard to it. Causes of the most trivial character are often admitted as fully sufficient to separate what ed about two hundred and seventy years God has joined together. In this way, what before Christ. He was a native of Cilicia, in his intuition the whole abyss of truth, in its own nature is the most elevated institution which God has established in the bosom of our social existence, is torn down to the miserable level of every irregular feel-ing and wicked human passion. To a great extent it is placed at the mercy of these themselves. It is not unfrequent that the mere matter of money is itself sufficient to blast what God had established, and to convert into a moral pestilence what He designed should be a source of blessing to the race. No one can muster sufficient courage to look the loathsome subject fully in the face, without clearly perceiving that our legislatures, and the courts under them, have in this view The Cilicians erected a monument to his and power of entreaty. Other doctrines committed an error for which they must, and will, some day, be held to a strict account.

But the subject does not end at this point. | are unknown. Would to God it did. We regard the main The Athenians who heard this quotation, madness itself to the natural mind. White-cause of this dire evil, which at this time is no doubt regarded Aratus as a renowned field's, Summerfield's and McCheyne's glow-

of marriage, by the low legal phraseology in tent, to become thus poisoned by infidelity? of experience." which it is thus clothed. What is thus said Let Synods awake to their duty in this full light of Christianity in this nineteenth

PAUL'S QUOTATIONS FROM THE GREEK POETS.

The Apostle Paul is the only one of the inspired writers who manifests any acquaintance with the classic literature of Greece. The earlier apostles were not only unletterzen by right of birth, and a native of Tarwas doubtless far more cosmopolitan than that of the best educated Palestinian Jews. On three occasions he cites passages from Greek poets, twice formally introducing their words as quotations, but without naming the authors, and in the third instance merely using the poet's words, without any intimation that they are quoted.

The first instance is in his discourse on Mars Hill: "As also some of your own poets have said: 'For His offspring also we are.'" taken from a poem by Aratus, who flourish- And if the Son of God, possessing an infinite and therefore a fellow-countryman of Paul. physical and moral, natural religion and re-He wrote many poems; but only two have vealed all art, all beauty, and all grandeur; come down to us. The one from which the if the Son of God, the omniscient One, was apostle quotes the first half of a hexameter nevertheless reticent regarding the vast Ovid says that the author's fame would live Christian scheme, and confined himself to changing feelings and degraded passions sole et luna semper Aratus erit." Cicero made redemption, then who are we that we should a metrical translation of this poem; but it venture beyond his limits, and counteract has not come down to us. It was translated into Latin by two other ancient scholars. One of these translations is extant, and also was also published by J. H. Voss, at Heidelberg, in 1824. Virgil is said to have been

him are extant, though the authors of them

of it is by many taken as a full definition of regard. Let the pulpits of the land raise full light of Christianity, in this nineteenth regard. Let the pulpits of the land raise their trumpet voices, from the true gospel standpoint, on this subject. Then, after we have discharged our duty, let us humbly bone and pray that we may not be uttently bone and pray that we may not be uttently be ut hope and pray that we may not be utterly consumed by this fire of hell.—Ger. Ref. Messenger.

THE SPIRIT OF PREACHING. That unearthly sermonizing of Baxter

and Howe, so abstracted from all the temporal and secular interests of man, so rigorously confined to human guilt and human redemption; that preaching which upon the face of it does not seem even to recog nize that man has any relations to this little ball of earth, which takes him off the planet entirely, and contemplates him simply as a sinner in the presence of God; that preaching, so destitute of all literary, scientific economical, and political elements and al lusions, was nevertheless one of the most fertile causes of the progress of England and America. Subtract it as one of the forces of English history, and the career of the Anglo-Saxon race would be like that of Italy and Spain.

Dare, my brethren, to work upon this theory. Make and keep your sermons throughly evangelical in their substantial matter. The temptations are many, in the present age, to multiply topics, and to introduce themes into the pulpit upon which Christ and his Apostles never preached. It (Acts 17:28.) The words here cited are is enough that the disciple be as his master. line was an astronomical poem, of which universe of truth that lay outside of the as long as the sun and moon endure: "Cum | that range of ideas which relate to sin and his example?

If the Christian preacher would suffuse his thoughts with that yearning charity which a part of the other. A German translation St. Paul describes, let him live in the light of the cross; let him feel the virtue of expiating blood in his conscience. The immeindebted to the poems of Aratus for some of diate intuition of the great atonement arms the facts and ideas embodied in his Georgics. | the preacher with a wonderful tenderness memory, and three ancient biographies of are powerful, but this carries him beyond himself, and fills him with a deathless affection for God and the soul of man, that seems

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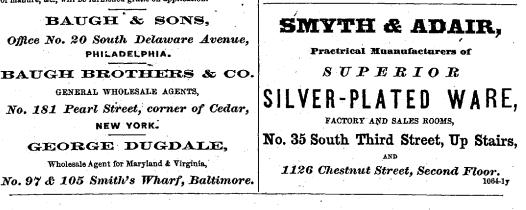
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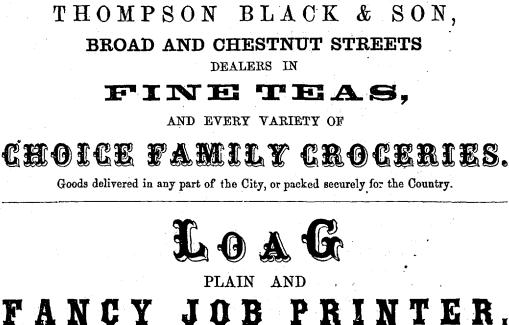
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