

Miscellaneous.

THEOLOGICAL-LEGAL DECISION.

Justice READ, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, has published, in pamphlet form, his opinion in favor of the Sunday Horse-Cars. This remarkable production should be noticed by our religious journals.

This judicial decision in favor of Sabbath profanation, touches the most cherished interests of Society. By some faculty this pamphlet escaped our notice at the time of its publication, but now, that our attention has been called to it, we cannot but express our astonishment at its judicial and theological utterances, as well as protest against its ethical tone and tendencies.

We are surprised to find, on the fourth page, this ungrammatical, and unintelligible statement: "England has an established Church, and Scotland has another, and neither have any control over the other."

It will puzzle the most astute dialectician, to detect the logical bearing of this unintelligible sentence upon the Car Question. And, then, the writer must needs italicize "have," to show the unwary reader, where lurked the offence against grammar.

As history is said to repeat itself, so do speculations follow one another in this favored land of ours. Many of your readers have doubtless painful remembrances of the wild speculative oil fever that raged to such a fearful extent in the years 1864 and 1865.

But the Judge is specially at fault in his Biblical history and theology. We can only notice one or two instances. He assumes that the Sabbath was first instituted at the giving of the Law on Sinai.

In the second argument, the Judge postulates, that "the Sabbath, like all the ceremonial and judicial laws of the Jews, was abrogated at the establishment of the Christian dispensation."

The excitement is intense, but has taken a decidedly practical shape. Lands are bought now for development and not for speculation. Five dollars per barrel for oil at the wells pays the producer very handsomely for producing and development.

The Judge has utterly failed in his theological argument. His plea for the running of the cars on Sunday, as a work of mercy to the poor and laboring classes, is not sustained by valid reasons, and is contradicted by abundance of facts, that have come under our personal observation.

THE PULPIT—ITS WEAKNESS AND ITS STRENGTH.

An able article upon this topic from the pen of Rev. Dr. Graves, of Norwich, is very suggestive. While conceding that the pulpit is a power in the land, the article insists that this power falls quite short of its due and proper measure, and then proceeds to discuss the conditions of its strength and efficiency.

We believe it is not, and that this is one of the causes of its weakness. The relation of its topics to Christ is too little regarded.

The polarity of truth, as Bishop McIlvaine has so finely expressed it, is defective. Almost any theme which is moral in its aspects and bearings is quite at home in the pulpit. The discrimination between morality and religion, between humanity and godliness, is not clear and sharp.

Sentiments like these, arrayed in the finest culture of the age, glowing in the light and flowing in the numbers of poetry, inlaid with much of moral science and gemmed by the fascinations of a brilliant but pretentious literature, have had an influence upon the pulpit—how should they not?

THE PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGION.

Oil Cr., Venango Co., Pa., July 8, 1868. As history is said to repeat itself, so do speculations follow one another in this favored land of ours. Many of your readers have doubtless painful remembrances of the wild speculative oil fever that raged to such a fearful extent in the years 1864 and 1865.

Lands heretofore deemed worthless for oil-bearing purposes are in good demand, and the extent of territory now in course of development is in extent fully quadruple that of all the previous years.

The excitement is intense, but has taken a decidedly practical shape. Lands are bought now for development and not for speculation. Five dollars per barrel for oil at the wells pays the producer very handsomely for producing and development.

The general bearing of oil courses is now definitely ascertained to be northeast and southwest, and can be traced the entire distance of producing localities by this general direction, with occasional spurs like the Pithole Oil Region. As all these facts are being ascertained, the oil-miner can operate with more certainty than in former years.

The principal new oil fields are Pleasantville and locality, Shamburg, and the territory lying adjacent to and parallel with

Oil Creek, extending from Reno to Petroleum Centre. Good wells have been struck at various points in this range, and the work of development is being vigorously prosecuted. Never to my recollection has general business been in a more prosperous state, or has the future of the Old Region looked so bright. It would be well for holders of oil stock to be looking up the same, as these kind of lands are being constantly brought into market, and will command fair prices.

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