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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1869.

MAN ON THE EPHEMERA.

In December, 1865, William B. Mann being then District Attorney, James Haggerty was convicted of burglary and sentenced therefor to ten years imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary. In a few months, however, this desperado, whose just conviction and well-merited sentence were secured by Mr. Mann, was let loose upon the community.

Mr. Mann furthermore embraces the opportunity to express again an unfavorable opinion of the newspapers of this city. He concentrates all his venom into one word, and hurls it at them; and not content with styling them "ephemeral," declares, with evident satisfaction, that they "will pass away."

Now the cause of this terrific onslaught upon the press of the city consists in the fact that it has been endeavoring to make Haggerty notorious. If the press would simply let Haggerty alone, he would not achieve notoriety, as a matter of course; but could knock down and drag out policemen, and perform other deeds of high emprise, without being brought unpleasantly before the public.

But there is another ground on which Mr. Mann can reasonably base his desire to witness the final passing away of the "ephemeral" press. About a year ago some of the "ephemeral newspapers" of this city pursued a course which tended materially to render Mr. Mann himself notorious, and the direct result of the notoriety which he achieved through this "ephemeral" agency was his involuntary withdrawal from the contest for the District Attorneyship—an office which, by the indulgence of the "ephemeral newspapers," he had held so long that he had come quite naturally to regard the fee simple of it as lodged in himself.

Yet it cannot be denied that the passing away of the "ephemeral newspapers" would operate very disastrously upon the fame and fortunes of such as Mr. Mann. The pettifoggers who haunt the Court of Quarter Sessions depend upon these "ephemeral" agencies for daily advertisement, which, unlike the other patrons of the "ephemeral newspapers," they have hitherto secured without cost.

A PROTESTANT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

Dr. MERLE D'AUBIGNE, in a letter to an English friend, proposes a General Conference of the Protestant Churches, to be held after the approaching Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church, and to have for its object "a manifestation of evangelical principles, in reply to the doctrinal announcements expected from Rome."

The work which the writer proposes for the conference is:—1. To affirm "the great doctrines of Holy Scripture." 2. To urge upon Protestants the duty of "carrying on the work of the Reformation."

to the commandments of men—a dead form: while Protestants ask them to receive a perfect and free salvation by grace, to find a living Christ—that kingdom of God which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." This work, he continues, "must be done without pride, without bitterness, without violence; it must be done in love."

If the conference can be kept within the bounds, and be conducted in the spirit, prescribed for it by Dr. d'Aubigne, it must certainly do good, and ought to be held. The Reformation, as an open movement, ended with the Council of Trent, called in 1545 by Charles V. of Germany, to restore unity and peace to the divided and warring Church. Its three sessions, however, resulted only in a wider separation of the Protestants from the ancient Church, and no reconciliation has since been attempted.

But for one other reason this conference is advisable. Truth need never, should never, shun the light. If, in this case, the truth lie wholly on one side, a calm, unimpassioned statement of principles by each side will help to determine on which; if it lie somewhere between, discussion will show the more clearly where. If Protestantism be "a failure," nothing will tend so directly to its exposure as the plain "setting in order" of its principles.

The one point of danger and difficulty in the plan Dr. d'Aubigne does not touch. It is very doubtful whether Protestants can unite upon any one "platform"—whether the nineteenth century be liberal enough to cast aside non-essential preferences, and determine what is the essence of Protestantism. The schisms of every reformed Church are accepted by Catholics as assurances of the ultimate failure of the Reformation, and the ground for their hope is not small, though it may be illogical.

THE PENSIONERS AND THE AGENTS.

A TELEGRAM to the Associated Press states that the Secretary of the Interior sustains the instructions of the Commissioner of Pensions, that all pensions must be paid in checks drawn directly to the order of the pensioners, instead of being paid in currency to agents or attorneys. This course has been rendered necessary in consequence of numerous complaints that attorneys or agents have exacted enormous fees from the objects of the bounty of the Government, and we are only surprised that it was not adopted long ago.

The plea is set up that the pensioners in remote districts will be put to great inconvenience by the new system, but we see little danger of this. The Secretary of the Interior says that "a check on the Treasury is believed by the pensioners to be as good as currency," and there is no reason to doubt this assertion. It is not at all necessary that a bank should be near to ensure prompt collection. There is not a merchant, and scarcely an active business man, who will not accept one of these checks from a pensioner of his acquaintance as readily as greenbacks; and for country merchants, as well as pensioners, they answer even a better purpose than currency, because, when made payable to order, they cannot be rendered available by any branch of the light-fingered family.

The pension system was devised, and it is now sustained at an enormous expense, for the benefit of soldiers and their families, and not for the advantage or enrichment of any class of agents or attorneys. Thousands and tens of thousands of pensioners, however, have been robbed of a large portion of the whole of the sums awarded to them by the nation, and the laws, as practically administered, have made the largest pensioners on the list men who never set a squadron in the field, never fought a battle, never received a wound, never shouldered a musket, but who, worse than the vampires, have fattened exclusively on patriot blood.

THE IRISH CHURCH, having suffered disestablishment, is going about the task of reconstructing itself in the most sensible manner. In the Synod of Armagh, recently,

the resolution excluding the laity from participation in the decision of doctrinal and disciplinary questions was rejected by a large majority. This is a sign of a healthy sentiment in the Church, and if it is rehabilitated in this generous spirit, the gain by disestablishment will be incomparably greater than the loss.

THE THREATENED WAR WITH SPAIN.

It is difficult to imagine anything more absurd than the idea of Spain going to war with the United States on account of the friendly proffer made by our Government of its services as a mediator between the mother country and Cuba. If our advances are objectionable, it is an easy matter for the Spanish Cabinet to reject them; and if no practicable form of negotiation is suggested, the whole subject will be at once disposed of, and Spain and Cuba will be left at full liberty to continue their mutually ruinous struggle.

The members of each Annual Conference are also required to vote upon the question at the first annual meeting subsequent to the taking of the lay vote. The following is the result of the clerical vote, as far as it has been taken:—

THE KING OF ITALY, says a cable telegram, has consented to the selection of the Duke of Genoa, one of his sons, as King of Spain. This is certainly very kind on the part of his Majesty, especially as the Spaniards have not, as yet, expressed any desire to have the Duke of Genoa for their ruler.

AN ENGLISH PAPER says the stage Irishman has been a creature of no Englishman ever believed as a true representative of the real Irishman; but as he was, and is, even more popular on the Irish stage than our own, he has been accepted as something near the truth.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Whereas, JAMES J. BROOKS, a Revenue Officer of the United States, was assaulted and shot on MONDAY, the 8th day of September instant, in a most cowardly and dastardly manner, in the neighborhood of Front and Arch streets, in this city, while in the discharge of his duties, his wound be assassinating in a carriage; and whereas, after diligent search for said persons, there is reason to believe that they have fled this jurisdiction, and are now eluding the officers of the law—

Now, I, DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, do hereby offer a reward of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS for the arrest and delivery to me, at my office in the said city, of each of the above-named persons, and this in addition to the reward already offered.

PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY, NINTH Street, south of Locust Street, Medical Department. Session 1869-70 commences October 5, at 7 1/2 o'clock, with a General Introductory by JOHN C. FINE, Esq. Free to the public. Students desirous of attending College will call upon the Dean, W. PAINE, M. D., at the University, from 9 to 4.

quarter of the people of England are, at some period of their lives, dependent for subsistence upon public or private charity, and that millions of people in that country barely drag out existence upon a pittance insufficient to secure food necessary for health, in abodes unfit for human beings.

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PHILADELPHIA, September 1, 1869. Messrs. FARRELL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 CHESTNUT STREET.

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