

where is the guarantee for the necessary increase of honesty? A man may propose to act for a community from motives as disinterested and mean as though he proposed to act only for himself.

Fourthly, Utopia is not Heaven, it is a republic, a re-estate—a sham altogether. Every mother's son of us firmly rooted to a ten-acre plot, and environed within a brown-rice mansion, with our heels upon the window-sill; is that the end proposed? It is not so much as a beginning. Reform begins and completes its circuit in the man: it is growth of the individual, not the enlargement of cities; the increase of scientific comprehension, the increase of spiritual power, and not the accumulation of round bits of metal.

Mr. Isa B. Davis reviewed the objections urged against the plan he had presented. He thinks the instinct of competition which is the animus of all commercial endeavor, must be rooted out before any real progress in the direction of social equality is possible.

DR. HALLOCK said: In considering this topic of reform, certain facts are conclusive with him as to the method.

Firstly, The Divine order and economy, which limits the intensity and duration of the affection of a cow, to the necessities of her calf, is proof to his mind, that nothing can exist beyond its use.

Thirdly, There can be no bounds to the desires of childhood, or the unreasoning period of human growth, except its capacity to enjoy, in some way, the things desired.

possible; nature, by long established usage having expressed her preference for quite another plan for the attainment of puberty.

Every mother's son of us firmly rooted to a ten-acre plot, and environed within a brown-rice mansion, with our heels upon the window-sill; is that the end proposed? It is not so much as a beginning. Reform begins and completes its circuit in the man: it is growth of the individual, not the enlargement of cities; the increase of scientific comprehension, the increase of spiritual power, and not the accumulation of round bits of metal.

One-half of the misery we complain of is imaginary, and a full moiety of the remainder is unnecessary. Wholesome food and sufficient raiment are not difficult of attainment; with a due supply of the one, in the stomach, and of the other, upon the back, what more is possible from these? Folly is as contagious as small-pox.

These things instead of being a necessity are a nuisance. They please the diseased vision, while they enslave the owner. The slavery of wealth, the world over, is greater than that of poverty.

Poetry.

"The finest poetry was first experience." For the Herald of Progress. THE POET'S LYRE.

A wondrous power hath the poet's lyre To soothe wild passions and to calm the soul;

O, poet's lyre! How thy music sweet Hath cheered my spirit in affliction's hour, Hath been a staff to aid my weary feet,

Some simple lay, spontaneous from the heart, Cast forth upon life's ever onward stream, True to its mission, oft doth joy impart,

Her "shadowy hand" now oft uplifts the veil, And we, by faith, the beautiful behold, Where pleasures pure, and love, doth never fail,

For the Herald of Progress. GETTING AHEAD.

Tell me, what's the use of living, If one cannot get ahead? Up the stream he is hard rowing, And one may as well be dead;

HERALD OF PROGRESS.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, EDITOR. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1860.

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All letters to be addressed to A. J. DAVIS & CO., PUBLISHERS, 274 Canal St., New York.

We shall commence very soon the publication of an Autobiography of the late Robert Owen.

"Hortensia, or the Double Life"—a beautiful and instructive narrative from the German—will be commenced next week.

Read the Medical "Hints to the Debilitated." Investigations are being made on "The Philosophy of Deformity, Insanity, and Idiocy," for future numbers of this journal.

THAT friends we mourn as lost have not departed, but yet live and cooperate with humanity from their more exalted Sphere, is fully demonstrated in our department of "Spirit Mysteries."

The South and North controversy in this week's issue cannot fail to interest all candid readers. Mr. Baldwin's positions are eminently practical. He states the whole case, and advocates African subordination to the will of Christian gentlemen, from a purely external standpoint.

The orthodox religious newspapers are attempting to undervalue and diminish the intellectual and moral greatness of Theodore Parker. Our readers may, therefore, expect this journal to deal fearlessly and justly with said publications as occasion shall seem to demand.

Life and Childhood. LIFE is felt by countless myriads; bringing to each a variable value and a different significance.

There are at this moment nearly a thousand millions of human beings on this globe; therefore, to the problem of Life, there are nearly a thousand millions of solutions.

Man's conception of the answer will correspond to two conditions—first, the circumstances of his body—second, the center of his spirit; and, however antagonistic the responses emanating from those in opposite states of flesh and spirit, yet, on the final analysis and synthetic judgment, all answers will be pronounced essentially homogeneous, and consistent every way, with the doctrine of a universal Brotherhood.

That Jesus and His Apostles should have referred to the Hebrew and Jewish Scriptures, in order to interest the prejudiced Jews in his wiser teachings, is not to be wondered at, nor does the fact conflict with our historical answer to George Blanchard.

Our correspondent says: "The Nicene Council was not to compile the Bible, but to settle disputed points on the acknowledged texts of the Bible."

We have, as before said, or can have access to as much knowledge respecting the origin of the Bible as anybody else in Christendom; and knowing the testimony of ecclesiastical historians on these points, we hesitate not to assert that our correspondent cannot, by history, substantiate the above proposition.

It is, we repeat, certain, that no Christian knows positively how, when, or where the present form of the Bible was compiled and established as an authority.

Most all history is obscure and conflicting on

of a July noon; one with the fall of rain, with the ascending moisture, with the melting bow just now arming the far-off horizon; one with the angel of sleep, with the angel of dreams, with the gods of the seasons; one with the undefinable romance of new faces that visit at the house, who eat at the table, who smile with the baby, and tell innocent stories of lands and cities yet to be seen; one with the ephemeral fascination of novel sports, with the painful trouble of finding the misplaced plaything; with the half-sad excitement when bounding impulses are checked by the interposing voice or strong hand of maternal watchfulness.

Lastly, and in short—Life to the best childhood is the negation of solid happiness, the blush of anticipation without the pleasure of participation, the perception of being without the luxury of understanding it, an innocence which has never felt the joy of resisted temptation; identical with initial bewitchments and glittering joys unnumbered, which surround the citadel of undisciplined sensibilities, and which plant, in the rapidly unfolding imagination, the seeds of ideas which rival the Siren Isles in beauty, and the realities of this globe as well; hence, childhood, to all poets, is a holy foreshadowing of pleasures common to the spirit-lands, a kind of avant courier to the facts of an existence superior to the present; a table of contents to the book of the coming ages; a daguerrotype, so to speak, of the world beyond, painted on earth by the Infinite Sun of the Universe.

The Bible Sustained.

OUR REPLY.

WE cheerfully printed in our last issue a letter on the origin of the present form of the Bible; to which, with all good will and no haste, we submit the following external answer. We are constrained, in this connection, to write externally and historically upon this question for two obvious reasons—first, our correspondent does not ask us to consider the superhuman or earthly origin of the Primitive writings (the Bible) from the internal standpoint; and second, because we do not forget that, in the world's court of historical investigations, the testimony of clairvoyance or mediums is still unacceptable.

Our worthy correspondent has evidently misapprehended the meaning of the word "compiled." After quoting a Jewish authority (Josephus), he says: "Christ and his Apostles refer to the Old Testament, etc.—did they refer to something that had no existence?"

From this question it is evident that the respondent has apprehended us as affirming that the books of the Testaments were written for the first time as well as collected into one volume by the Nicene Council, which was held under the all-commanding authority of the converted Constantine. The most of our correspondent's letter seems to be aimed at this misapprehension, and therefore he must not expect us to take up his objections and consider them at length. We will, however, acknowledge our conviction that the books of the Testaments, and many other epistles equally interesting and as much inspired, were in existence a long period prior to the arbitrary Council of Bishops under the directorship of the Roman Emperor.

That Jesus and His Apostles should have referred to the Hebrew and Jewish Scriptures, in order to interest the prejudiced Jews in his wiser teachings, is not to be wondered at, nor does the fact conflict with our historical answer to George Blanchard. (See HERALD OF PROGRESS, No. 11.) In that reply we simply sketched the perfectly human origin of the existing and conflicting combination of books called the Bible; and our esteemed correspondent, in making up his defense, has not adduced one particle of evidence calculated to invalidate the authority of the history quoted by us. Why did he not do so?

Our correspondent says: "The Nicene Council was not to compile the Bible, but to settle disputed points on the acknowledged texts of the Bible."

We have, as before said, or can have access to as much knowledge respecting the origin of the Bible as anybody else in Christendom; and knowing the testimony of ecclesiastical historians on these points, we hesitate not to assert that our correspondent cannot, by history, substantiate the above proposition. All history is indefinite and unitary in declaring that the Nicene Council, as well as several Conventions held previous and subsequent to it, was called for the express purpose of fixing and determining the Sacred Canon, and not to set as a commentator upon the meaning of received texts.

It is, we repeat, certain, that no Christian knows positively how, when, or where the present form of the Bible was compiled and established as an authority. Almost all history is obscure and conflicting on

this external aspect. What the Christian world does know we can also know, and we know that clergymen do not know how or by whom the Sacred Canon was originated. But the unavoidable inference is, that the Nicene Council, under the despotic control of the emperor, was the human institution, that, after considerable dispute, finally fixed most of the sacred writings in their existing relation, and called them "the word of God." Please read the following facts:

Mosheim, the great Ecclesiastical Historian of modern times, says in Vol. I., p. 72: "As to the time when and the persons by whom the books of the New Testament were collected into one body or volume, there are various opinions or rather conjectures of the learned; for the subject is attended with great and almost inexplicable difficulties to us of these late times." (P. 100.)

Also, Dr. Lardner, in his work on the Evidences of Christianity, declares that, "Even as late as the sixth century the New Testament canon was not settled by any authority that was considered decisive, or that was universally received; but Christian people were at liberty to judge for themselves, according to the evidence, concerning the genuineness of writings proposed to them as apostolical."

Dr. Davidson (Vol. I., p. 34) says, there was a collection of some of the New Testament books as early as the first half of the third century; but that six books, namely, the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Apocalypse, the Second Epistle of Peter, that of Jude, and the Second and Third of John, were not received as inspired, or canonical. But, while that subject is thus obscured by the conjectures of the learned, and the contradictions of historians, there are yet some indications, quite significant, that the Council of Nice was the most important as the instrument of setting the canon of Scripture; notwithstanding it is quite certain that after councils renounced the doings of the Nicene Council. Many books, adopted by the earlier councils as divine, were rejected by the later ones as spurious; and often books were admitted into, or thrown out of the canon, by the most meager majorities. These councils were held during the dark ages, by the Catholic Church, and nearly all the history of their doings is, therefore, obscure. All the evidence we have, in church history, of the divinity and credibility of the Bible is drawn from the Catholic Church, in the deepest ages of her darkest corruptions. There was no Protestant Church until after the great reformers, Zwingle and Luther.

The proceedings at the Council of Nice are, like all events in the ancient history of the Church, veiled in obscurity. Indeed, a strong desire seemed to possess Eusebius and others who were present to conceal its details from the world, or at least to clothe the whole affair with the garb of mystery. Thus Pappus tells us that the Bishops, having "promissively put all the Books that were referred to the Council for determination, under the communion-table in a church, they besought the Lord that the inspired writings might get upon the table, while the spurious ones remained underneath, and that it happened accordingly."

Our correspondent quotes Augustine to prove that "The books of Scripture could not have been corrupted," &c. On the contrary, Mosheim (Vol. I., pp. 72-78) gives us to know that not one of the works of the Apostolic Fathers can be trusted as purely the work of the author to whom it is ascribed. Their names are the following: Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, and others. According to Mosheim, not one of the works of these men can be trusted as genuine, while nearly all are admitted universally to be forgeries. (Mosheim, Vol. I., pp. 74-78.) "Nor did any apostle, or any one of their immediate disciples, collect and arrange the principal doctrines of Christianity in a scientific or regular system." The "Apostle's Creed" was extant in the first century, but Mosheim says, page 73, that though this creed was attributed to Christ's ambassadors from the fourth century onward, "it is at this day unanimously agreed that this opinion is a mistake." So this "Apostolic Creed," the only summary of Christian doctrine in the first century, is not authority.

"In the second century," he says, "the whole Christian system was still comprised in a few precepts and propositions; nor did the teachers publicly advance any doctrines besides those contained in what is called the Apostle's Creed." (Vol. I., page 125.) On page 130, of Vol. I., he tells us that the doctrine, "that it was not only lawful, but commendable, to divorce and lie for the sake of *trunk and piety*, early spread among the Christians" of the second century. "Numerous forgeries of books, under the names of eminent men, sibylline verses, and a large mass of similar trash, appeared in this and the following centuries." All are universally admitted to be spurious—mere forgeries. The apostle, he affirms, on page 79, nor did the apostles, or any one of their immediate disciples, collect and arrange the principles.

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afford me neither life nor salvation, that is to say, Development. I know philosophically, that man possesses a conscious, individualized existence, but how it may look in its exterior form after the metamorphosis of death, that is to me unknown, and the sayings of others, be they as probable and beautiful as they may, can furnish neither rule nor creed to my individual thoughts.

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