

## EDITORIALS.

THE "CHURCHMAN" LABOR-  
ING IN VAIN.

The *Churchman*, an orthodox Christian paper, considers it has demolished the arguments in favor of adult baptism, and against infant sprinkling under the name of baptism, by the following:

"First, because by their first or natural birth of sinful parents, infants inherit a nature infected by sin. (Romans v. 12; Ephesians ii. 3.) Because baptism is God's instrument for conveying to all the second or new birth of 'water and of the spirit.' (St. John iii. 5.) As men were born into the first Adam before they could know the evil received from him, so it seems reasonable and in accordance with the loving grace of God that they should be brought into the second Adam before they can know the good they receive from him. Because Christ tells us he considers little children more fit for his kingdom than grown people. He says, 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.' (St. Mark x. 14.) Because Christ by his acts shows us that little children, although they can neither believe nor understand, are yet capable of receiving a blessing. His disciples, like those who would now keep the children from a Christian baptism, ignorantly thought they were too young, and therefore incapable of receiving blessings, but Christ was 'much displeased' at this, and, having commanded the children to be brought unto Him, 'took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.' Can we believe that his blessing of them was only an empty form conveying nothing? Because under the old covenant parents were commanded by God to have their children made members of His Church at eight days old (Genesis xvii., 9-14), and Christ cannot have meant His new covenant to have less of blessing for his children than His old. This doubtless is the reason why He did not, in so many words, say to His apostles, 'Baptize infants.' These apostles themselves had all been made members of God's church when they were infants. Because on the first day of the Christian Church, and in the first Christian sermon, St. Peter, after exhorting the people to be baptized, says, 'The promise (of the Holy Ghost) is unto you and your children. (Acts ii. 39.) Because the prophet Isaiah, speaking of Christ, says, 'He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.' And Christ himself specially charges His apostles in the words, 'Feed my lambs.' If infants are not to be made members of his flock—that is, His visible Church—How can Christ have any lambs? Because in the history of the first thirty years of the Church we have several instances of whole households being baptized' (Acts xvi., 15, 33; 1 Corinthians i., 16). Is it likely that in all these families there was not a single infant or young child? Because for fifteen centuries the Christian Church universally received infants to her fold by baptism."

The above long string of reasonings without application to the subject, form the substance of all that the *Churchman* and the theologians who are in accord with its sentiments can bring forth in favor of infant baptism. Let us look at them, one by one.

First.—Infants inherit a nature infected by sin. This is what is generally denominated "original sin," or the descent of sin to the race through the transgression of the first parents. But the Scripture says, "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Cor. xv. 22. Therefore, redemption from original sin comes without any effort of the children of men. All die in Adam without any act of their own. Even so all will be made alive again without any act of their own. So, as death passes upon the evil and the good through the fall, both the just and the unjust will be resurrected from the dead through the atonement. Baptism, therefore, has nothing to do with inherited sin.

Second.—Baptism is the instru-

ment of the new birth of water and the spirit. Not so. Baptism is only the birth of water; the birth of the spirit is in addition to it. Jesus set the example. He was first baptized in the river Jordan, then the Holy Ghost descended upon him. Here was the pattern. If infancy was the proper time for baptism, why was not Jesus baptized when a child? But the new birth can only come to repentant believers. Jesus sent His disciples to "teach all nations" and said, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." In all the Acts of the Apostles, belief in Christ and repentance of sin were made essential precedents to baptism. Therefore, infants who cannot believe nor repent should not be baptized. Again, baptism is expressly declared in the scriptures to be "for the remission of sins;" that is, the actual sins which the believer repents of. Infants, not being capable of committing actual sins, have none to be remitted, and therefore ought not to be baptized.

The third "reason" has been answered with the first.

Fourth.—Little children are more fit for Christ's Kingdom than grown people. Just so; and hence they have no need to be baptized like grown persons. "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." They are pure in Christ and fit subjects for the heavenly Kingdom, without any such ordinance or formula.

Fifth.—Little children, although they can neither believe nor understand, are yet capable of receiving a blessing. Exactly; and therefore Christ took them in his arms and blessed them. And here again is a pattern. Jesus did not baptize them, for the reasons we have named, and his blessing was not an "empty form," but an ordinance for the benefit of children not old enough to be accountable, and therefore too young to be baptized.

Sixth.—Under the old covenant children were made members of the church at eight days old. No such thing is mentioned in the text quoted. It relates to circumcision, the physical mark of the lineal descendants of Abraham. It has nothing to do with baptism nor admission to Christ's church. If all the Apostles were already members of his church by circumcision, why were they baptized in maturity, and why were the circumcised Jews who joined the Church all required to be baptized in order to gain admission?

Seventh.—On the first day of the Christian Church and in the first Christian sermon, the promise of the Holy Ghost was to the people and their children. The day of Pentecost was not the first day of the Christian Church, else all that were baptized by the Apostles previously were baptized in vain, and if the first Christian sermon was then preached, what was the "sermon on the mount?" But the promise to the children or descendants of the multitude addressed did not imply the baptism of infants, for it was predicated upon repentance as well as baptism. "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," &c. The promise was to those who would repent and be baptized, and therefore did not apply to children too young to sin and repent.

Eighth.—"He shall gather the lambs with his arm," &c. The lambs of the flock referred to are treated as lambs and not as the older sheep, as shown already in Christ's blessing of the children. Baptism is not even hinted at in the text quoted by the *Churchman*.

Ninth.—Whole households were baptized and therefore there must have been some children among them. All the Apostles were first required to believe and repent, therefore if any children were among the number they must have been old enough to comply with the conditions, and, consequently, infant baptism receives no support from this fact. We have baptized whole households, in several instances, in which there were no infants.

Tenth.—For fifteen centuries the Christian Church universally received infants to her fold, by baptism. Indeed, which is the Christian Church that has existed for fifteen centuries? The Roman Catholic Church, if that is meant, which is the only church that can presume to claim such an age, has also maintained the doctrines of image-worship, the adoration of the Virgin, transubstantiation,

auricular confession, priestly absolution, the supremacy of the Pope, etc., etc., for these long centuries, and therefore, if this is an argument in favor of infant baptism, it also supports the other dogmas, which Protestant Christians reject with loathing.

The fact is, infant baptism is a relic of apostate Christianity which modern sects have retained, while repudiating other errors, no more palpable than that. It is a perversion of the simple ordinance taught by Jesus and his apostles, as the vehicle through which that remission of sins which comes by the shedding of Christ's blood is conveyed to the repentant believer in the atonement of Messiah, the Son of the living God. The true ordinance can only be administered rightfully and efficaciously by one having authority to use the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and therefore the sprinkling of children in the name of the Holy Trinity, by those who have had no divine communication, directly or indirectly, is rank blasphemy, and in direct contradiction to the expressed commandments of the Almighty. And the editors of the *Churchman*, with all who uphold the heresy that paper has vainly tried to sustain, have need to repent of this sin and forsake their other errors, that by true baptism they may receive remission thereof, and peradventure, obtain salvation in the Kingdom of God.

## THE WORM TURNING.

THE cry of "The Chinese must go," which was the key note of the Kearney agitation in California but which does not catch the public ear much in the East, has provoked some strong language from the Mongolian side, which is applied as a "counter irritant," through the columns of a San Francisco paper. Kwang Chang Ling, who is supposed to have been inspired by the Chinese embassy of recent arrival, comes out with the following startling threats, that have more force to support them than might be thought on a superficial examination. He says:

"You may drive us out of California, but we shall influence your social affairs all the same. The goods we now manufacture in San Francisco will be fabricated in Canton; and no matter how high you may raise your tariff, you will walk in Canton shoes and wear Canton shirts, smoke Canton cigars and shoot with Canton revolvers; for we can make them cheaper than you."

"Should the outcry raised against Chinese labor prevail, and legislation be procured which will close the ports of the country against the pig-tailed and almond-eyed disciples of Confucius, it is not unlikely that the trades learned in the United States by the imitative Mongolians would be started in the great cities of the Flowery Kingdom, when cheap labor would effectually underbid American manufactures, and perhaps drive some of them from the markets of the world."

This Chinese champion further says:

"During your civil war, a single Confederate cruiser, whose operations in Chinese waters were zealously aided by the British Consuls, and alarmingly magnified by the reports of the British merchants in our ports, entirely swept your commerce from the Pacific Ocean. This fact taught us two things: First, the English are your rivals in trade, and would gladly ruin you; second, they are ready to sell war ships, arms and ammunition to your enemies. At the present time they have a number of fine ironclads which, being our friends, they will be glad to sell to us, and, if needs be, show us how to handle. The day that you become so weak and faithless as to give way to your ignorant classes, and permit the torch and the dagger to drive us from your shores, that day will see every resource of the Ta-tsing Empire put forth to punish you. Your commerce will be swept from the Pacific, perhaps forever; it may even be seriously crippled on the Atlantic; and you may then learn, when too late, that China, though old and apathetic, is by no means dead or powerless."

The danger of the arming of Asiatic hordes with the weapons of

civilization were pointed out at the Berlin Congress. We have already noted in these columns the manufacture in China of vessels and engines and fortifications after the most approved models of civilized Powers, and the importation of Krupp and Armstrong cannon, and shown that the people who are supposed to be in the last stages of national existence, are, on the contrary, alive and vigorous, and adopting the weapons and methods of modern warfare. And it must be remembered that in the times of their easy subjugation by England and France, they had nothing to interpose between the invaders and victory, more than the old-time junks and firelocks and stinkpots and other barbarian implements of attack and defence. A conflict with the Chinese Empire now would be a vastly different affair, and it would be perhaps a wise thing for our legislators to pause and reflect upon the possibilities of the future, before adopting any rigorous and forcible measures for the banishment of the Chinese, to answer the clamor of demagogues and the unreasoning demands of race antipathies.

The Chinese question is one that needs calm consideration and wise statesmanship, and anything that would tend to destroy the harmony which exists between the two governments is certainly to be greatly deprecated. Even a worm will turn when it is trod upon, and the Chinese worm might turn out to have a very powerful and deadly sting.

## AN EPISTLE FROM A HEBREW.

ON the 2nd inst. we alluded to the remarks of the *New York Post*, in relation to "Mormons" supplying hostile Indians with ammunition, showed their fallacy and exposed the falsehood and trickery of one Alexander, of Ogden, on whose letter to Secretary Schurz the strictures of the *Post* were predicated. Below we give the letter itself, as copied into several eastern journals, that our people may know to what depths of falsehood and extremes of malice such small creatures as its author will descend, in vain endeavors to injure those whose stables he is not worthy to clean out? The letter is dated Ogden, Utah, July 16, 1878:

"Sir: The object of this letter is to give you some information relative to the traffic in ammunition which is carried on by the co-operative stores with the Indians. The co-operative stores are conducted by the Mormon priesthood. My informers, the deputy United States Marshal here and others, tell me this traffic is carried on daily, and beyond doubt, all similar institutions all over the Territory, and in Southern Idaho at the following places where the co-operative stores exist: Malade City, Soda Springs and Paris. These places are directly on the Indian borders. The Mormon priesthood have constantly missionaries among the Indians. The latter are converted to Mormonism and taken through the Endowment House, where they (the Indians) pledge themselves to support this priesthood, and they are called by the Mormons 'Our little battle-axes.' Therefore almost every Indian war is carried on directly and indirectly by this priesthood, and therefore this traffic of ammunition. The great aim of the priesthood is to intimidate non-Mormons from getting the valleys within 500 miles of Salt Lake for the purpose of keeping the lands vacant until by the natural, steady and rapid growth of Mormonism the priesthood can colonize the unoccupied region. The so-called 'Masonry' hat binds all tribes together, so often referred to by the press of the United States, emanates from the Endowment Temple at Salt Lake, where the secret work and the endowment garments are given them. The so-called friendly Indians are always carrying information and ammunition to the hostiles. As this is as serious as costly, I deem it my duty to report the same to you, and if there is no law to stop the sale of ammunition to Indians, I suggest that the President issue a proclamation in which to prohibit the sale of ammunition and firearms to the Indians during times of hostility. If our Governor in this Territory would be alive to the in-

terests he should represent, I am certain this traffic could not be carried on as extensively as it is."

We commend the precious epistle to the consideration of our friends in Ogden, where the creature who penned it has managed to establish himself, that they may know the sentiments he entertains and the designs he has in view. Any person who would descend to such infamous falsehoods as are contained in this letter, is unworthy of the notice of respectable citizens of any creed, party, color or race.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

While Americans have been sweltering and sweating under the nineties, the thermometer in the East Indies has been commonly marking 120 deg. in the shade.

Cloves are produced in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, where the tree was first introduced about 1830. The total average quantity produced is about 7,000,000 pounds valued at \$425,000.

It is stated that geraniums kept in a room will drive away flies. If this is true every house and every office and store in Utah ought to be beautified with geraniums. Who knows whether the statement is correct?

According to statistics published by the Danish government there are now 150,000 head of cattle less in the kingdom of Denmark than ten years ago. Horses remain about the same in number, while sheep and swine have considerably increased.

An official statement was made in the English Parliament a week ago, to the effect that the known number of deaths from the famine in India foot up the terrible sum of one million three hundred and fifty thousand, and that the actual number is probably many more!

Vulcan, the inter-Mercurial planet demonstrated by Le Verrier, and discovered by Watson, is estimated at 78,000,000 miles from the earth, and 15,000,000 miles from the sun. Its yearly journey round the sun occupies about thirty of our days, which gives it rather a short year.

A reward of 10,000 francs has been given by a Belgian scientific jury to M. Melsens for an effectual remedy in mercury and lead poisoning. It is the iodide of potassium, which is said to change into soluble form the metallic deposit and eliminate it from the system. This ought to be known in every mining region in the world.

While the recent heavy rains in Wisconsin and Minnesota spoiled the crops and thus injured the farmers, the lumbermen reaped the good results of the storm. The rivers were so swelled in volume that log drivers were able to float as much lumber as in the early spring. This will cheapen building material, so the calamity has its compensations after all.

Heisch's sugar test for the presence of dangerous organic matter is mentioned by high authority as simple and sufficient: Place a quantity of the water in a clean, glass-stoppered bottle; add a few grains of pure sugar and expose to the light in the window of a warm room. If the water becomes turbid, even after exposure for a week, reject it. If it remains clear it is safe.

The law permitting an accused person to testify in his own case worked badly for a prisoner on trial for theft, in New York, last week. He was acquitted, as he would have been had he held his tongue. But he lied so palpably that he was committed to await trial on a charge of perjury. It will serve him right if he is convicted, now.

The wholesale business in body-snatching done in the East has suggested an invention for the protection of the dead. It is a torpedo, so arranged that the disturbance of the grave or the coffin will not affect it, but as soon as the corpse is moved a spiral spring explodes a cap, and a load of buckshot salutes the intruder. If this method is generally adopted body-snatching will soon be numbered among the "lost arts."

Another case of supposed kidnapping has occurred at Germantown, Philadelphia, the place from which Charley Ross disappeared. Johnnie O'Donnell, a small boy, disappear-