

EDITORIALS.

A SEA MONSTER.

THE octopus or devil fish, so graphically described by Victor Hugo, and sometimes called the cuttle fish, is not classed among the mythical monsters of the deep, as it has been known for centuries, but is as much of a marvel as the sea serpent and other huge wonders, that are still spoken of with a skeptical smile in spite of the agreement in a great mass of testimony to their existence.

An octopus is now on exhibition at New York, which is the largest of the species ever brought to land. This monster was captured by some fishermen on the northern shore of Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. It was caught in a cleft of the rocks, and in its desperate efforts to regain its liberty lashed the waves with its ten huge arms till the waters were in a seething foam. The fishermen waited till the tide went down, when the monster was left high and dry and dead upon the beach. They took possession of the carcass, which proved the most profitable haul they had made for many a long day.

The body of the octopus is ten feet long and seven feet in circumference, and its tail-fin measures two feet nine inches across. Two of its arms or tentacles are each thirty-five feet long and five inches in circumference, except at the ends, where they measure eight inches around. The other eight tentacles are each eleven feet long and seventeen inches in circumference at their junction with the body, tapering out to a point. The smaller tentacles have rows of suckers on the under side, and the long ones several on the ends. Two hundred and fifty were counted on one of the short arms, and it is computed that the monster has nearly twenty-five hundred suckers, in all. The head from which the tentacles spread out is four feet six inches in circumference, and has a horny beak. The eyes are at the back part of the head on either side, and the sockets measure eight inches in diameter.

This horrible creature is able to seize and hold on to its prey with immovable tenacity, its flexible tentacles grasping any object attacked, and the suckers drawing with such force that the arms will part from the body before they will lose their suction. It can walk on the bottom of the sea with these arms with its head downward. By its two side gills it can discharge an inky fluid from an interior sac, darkening the water and thus aiding the monster's escape when desired.

To preserve the specimen now at New York required the use of fifteen hundred gallons of alcohol. It will prove one of the "lions" of Gotham and a wonder to people from the country for many years to come. Now let somebody capture a sea serpent, a lake monster and a river leviathan, and there will be something on hand from the great waters to match the mastodons, and other gigantic land creatures, whose fossil remains have been exhumed by the exploring scientists of the nineteenth century.

MOSLEM AND MUSCOVITE.

A DISPATCH from London of today's date, says that a Russian journal reports 59,434 Russian soldiers killed and wounded in the recent struggle near Kars.

This puts a little different appearance on the victory claimed by the Muscovites. The only report of the affair from the Turkish side admits that Mukhtar Pasha had to retreat into Kars, but announces a great slaughter of the enemy. There is no doubt that the Turkish army in the east has met with a serious reverse, but it was not experienced without great loss on the part of the invaders.

The gallant resistance offered by the troops of the Ottoman Empire to the invading hordes from the north has gained them much admiration and not a little sympathy. It is a matter of surprise

to those who favor the Russian cause, why so many people express a desire to see the Moslem hold his own in the present tremendous conflict. The reason is, the Turk is the small boy in the fight. His colossal antagonist is the attacking party, and the Turk is battling for home, country, and national existence.

But the Russian supporter says, the Porte ought to be destroyed for its cruelty to Christians in Bulgaria and other provinces, and Russia is waging a Christian warfare against barbarians and mutilators of the living and the dead. We take the reports of the alleged cruelties of the Turks *cum grano salis*. Further, we do not believe the Sultan, and his associates in the Government of the Ottoman Empire, are responsible for deeds committed by irregular fighters, a sort of unauthorized guerrillas, and whose acts cannot be traced to instructions from head quarters. Still further, whatever atrocities the Bashi-Bazouks may have perpetrated, the motives of the Czar in this invasion have been clearly those of aggrandizement. He sought conquest to rob a weaker State, and his professions of consideration for the Christians was too thin a pretext to blind the eyes of any but a strong and bitter partisan.

The general feeling is one of sympathy for the "Sick Man," who has shown unexpected vigor and praiseworthy valor, in standing up for his rights against a vastly superior assailant, so far as force and means to back it are concerned.

We doubt very much, if the real truth were known, the superiority of Russian over Turkish affairs, socially or religiously. The Moslem is a temperance man, practically, and to this, in some degree, may be attributed his endurance and hardihood on the field of battle.

It is possible, indeed probable, that, unless other Powers interfere, the Crescent may go down before the might of the Cross. The failures of the commencement of the war may be all redeemed by future successes. The overwhelming numbers and larger finances of the invader may prove more powerful than the pluck and determination of the invaded. But while the war lasts the sympathies of the best portion of the civilized world will be with the beleaguered Mohammedans, who are fighting like heroes against a towering, ambitious and crafty foe, with just as many features of semi-barbarism within his dominions as still remain under the rule of the Sultan.

"EVIL," IN THE DIVINE ECONOMY.

MUCH of the skepticism that characterizes the present age of investigation and independent thought, is the natural consequence of false theology. Most of the "religious" notions that are scoffed at by the infidel, and which form the chief subjects for his ridicule, are only the theories of men who have "run before they were sent," or, in other words, taken to themselves that right to expound and declare the things of God which can only be conferred by Divine authority. Having nothing for a guide but the dead letter of ancient scripture, and the uninspired dogmas of the ecclesiastical institutions with which they are connected, they enunciate great inconsistencies with the utmost gravity and in unnatural tones, exciting to disgust or laughter the unbeliever who hears and rejects their vagaries.

The following paragraph, which we extract from a letter to the New York Sun, by a graduate of a college, illustrates this subject, and shows how the seeds of skepticism are sown by the very hands which undertake to point out the way of faith and salvation.

"God, we are told, made the world, and all things from the first were subject to his will. Now, if a Serpent or a Satan overturned His plans, why, being omniscient, did He make this thing or person? And if it were possible to get the better of God, was not the conqueror stronger and wiser than He?"

Now, there is nothing in the Scriptures, if left untouched by the teachings of spurious theology, which convey any such idea as expressed in the above extract. The

introduction of evil into the world cannot be shown to be in contradiction to the plans of the Almighty. Taking the story of "the fall," literally, as told in Genesis, which we shall not here attempt to strip of its allegory, there is no such inconsistency expressed.

The existence of evil in any form seems to be a puzzle to the student of the Divine economy, and its origin has formed the subject of many an animated, not to say belligerent, debate. It should be understood that a comprehension of evil is absolutely necessary to the education of the immortal spirit. That without a knowledge of the opposites to those eternal principles which conduce to the happiness of the soul, the good things of the universe cannot be properly appreciated. Evil and good, in the abstract, are co-eternal. They are not creations, but are developed in beings by circumstances and influences and surroundings. "There must needs be an opposition in all things." And this world was evidently designed as a place for probation—proving, testing, trial, that the beings inhabiting mortal bodies may be brought into contact with opposing principles and forces, so that they may show whether they will choose the good and refuse the evil; whether they love light rather than darkness; whether they will drink in of the influences that flow from above and repel those that emanate from beneath; or *vice versa*.

In the presentation of evil to our first parents, the Adversary, or Satan, did nothing that militated against the Divine plan, and in partaking of that which introduced death into the world no scheme of the Almighty was frustrated or changed in any degree. The grand object of the sufferings and sorrows, and darkness and gloom, and the final death experience of this mortal life, is to make the beings who pass through them acquainted with their nature and effects, and with the great truth that those conditions are the inevitable result of the violation of the laws of the Great Father of all, which are based upon principles eternal, unchangeable and indestructible.

To do anything which will bring under the dominion of Death a being capable of continual existence is a transgression of the laws which belong to the spheres of immortality. They all tend to promote life and perpetuate it. The pair in Eden were warned of the consequence of a certain course, and commanded, not to take it, but were left free to act on their own volition. They fell, and in their fall entailed upon their posterity, by natural inheritance, the weakness which admits suggestions of evil, and the taint which results in dissolution of the body. But this only opened the way for immortal spirits to obtain, through the medium of a body subject to the influences of the lower spheres, a knowledge of the eternal opposites to the life and bliss of the perfected realms of immortality and endless day. Then through the infinite atonement of the Savior they will all, without exception, be redeemed from the effects of the transgression in the garden, and stand on their own merits, to be judged "according to the deeds done in the body," viewed in the light of their varied circumstances and opportunities, to the perfect satisfaction of eternal justice, without infringement upon the claims of everlasting mercy.

And thus out of seeming evil the Father will bring good, as he brought order out of chaos in the beginning, and called light out of the depths of darkness. His plans were laid for the benefit of the whole race of man. He "determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation." The Powers of Evil, who work according to their disposition and desires, only aid in the accomplishment of His great designs. And the results of the acts of all beings, visible and invisible, are in His hands, and when the scheme of human redemption concerning this little globe—one out of the myriads of His creations—is fully completed, all His sons and daughters who have passed through their probation upon it, and have become established in the "condition" and glory for which they have proven themselves best adapted, will see that there has been no destruction of His plans, no overturning of His purposes, but, in the language of the Book of Mormon, will exclaim, "All things have been done in the wisdom of Him who knoweth all things."

And every knee will bow, and every tongue confessing that Jesus is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father, will gladly obey His laws, and follow in His footsteps and pattern after His works throughout the eternal ages.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Lutheran Church has a large number of followers in the United States. Its latest statistics show fifty-eight synods, 2,705 regular ministers, 4,822 churches and 600,353 communicant members. In Nebraska there are over sixty Lutheran clergymen in actual ministerial service.

The *Sulabha Samachar*, a native East India journal, denounces flesh-eating and wine-bibbing. It ridicules the idea that these practices impart either physical strength or valor, and shows that they produce unnatural heat, cause gluttony, induce bad passions and lead to premature death.

Nearly sixty years ago a number of skilled cutlers were brought to this country from Sheffield, England, to establish the business in America. Now cutlery manufactured in the United States is shipped to Sheffield and sold there at a good profit. And so the world changes, and enterprise wins its way.

Great Britain is well stocked with lunatics. From the report of the Commissioners on Lunacy, recently published, it appears that on the first of January last, there were 66,888 insane persons in England and Wales. But do not make fun of the British on this account; they shut up and take care of their lunatics and, consequently, are able to number them.

England has a number of very fine railway stations, many of which exhibit architectural taste as well as colossal proportions. The largest is said to be at York. The length of the platform is 1,500 feet, the covered portion of the station 800 feet, the breadth 234 feet, and the height 50 feet. In this country, particularly in the West, make-shift seems to be the rule in railroad structures.

Texas is undoubtedly the greatest cattle-producing region on earth. Ten of her live-stock breeders alone own 1,025,000 cattle, besides horses and mules, and sixty of them have 682,000 acres of pasture inclosed. There are large tracts of land in that State yet unoccupied, suitable for farming as well as grazing purposes. But speculators have their greedy eyes upon them, and they will soon be appropriated.

"Curve pitching," one of the fine arts of base ball practice, has been repeatedly pronounced by "wise" men an impossibility. Among the scientifics who enunciated this dictum was Professor Swift, of Rochester, N. Y. But he has had to "take it all back" for a base ball pitcher has visited the gentleman, and proven his error, by delivering a ball which described an actual curve of seven feet eight inches in a distance of one hundred and twenty-seven feet. Facts are above theories.

In planting grapes the rows are generally set to run east and west so as to face the southern sun, but the Toronto *Globe* says: "Rows of grapevines should run north and south, so that every leaf may get the sunlight, either in the forenoon or afternoon. This is more important in September than during the heat of summer. If the rows face east and west, the vines shade the entire ground, and hence you lose a large part of the heat, and the moment the sun disappears, there is not stored up heat to carry the vines through the night. This in time of frost is of great importance."

At a recent meeting of the London Social Science Association, two eminent speakers showed that inhabitants of valleys are more subject to a number of diseases than those who live on hill sides. Thirty of these diseases were named, among which were rheumatism, scrofula, croup, influenza, fistula, calculus and some malformations. They contended that one of the causes of this was that the dwellers in valleys do not get their share of fresh air, those who live on the hill sides receiving more benefit from atmospheric movements. Whether these remarks will apply to the mountain valleys in this region is a matter of grave doubt.

The Brooklyn (Cal.) *Vidette* of the 12th inst. contains a notice to the effect that "a Mormon Church organization" has been formed at Brooklyn with thirteen members, under the leadership of Job Smith, "One of the Seventy," and that they "seem to be a quiet and industrious people, and endowed with a peculiar quality of facing the whole world and living in privation for the sake of their infatuation for the Mormon Church." Elder Job Smith is a missionary from this city, who is laboring to spread the truth in California and sustaining himself by engaging in his regular business of basket manufacture. We are pleased to hear of his welfare.

We have had the pleasure of perusing a letter to his parents from Elder Joseph Bull, Jr., formerly of this office and now on a mission to England. He is in excellent spirits, laboring diligently, meeting with good success, and evidently enjoys his ministry, and highly appreciates the opportunity it affords him of improving his mind in the knowledge of the gospel and of doing good to his fellow men. The young Elder is at present at Hereford and is travelling and preaching in the Birmingham District.

The French have learned the value for horse-feed of the Indian corn raised in the United States. They are now importing it in large quantities. Corn in bulk is shipped from the elevators at New Orleans to Havre. This seaport is the finest in France, and has immense docks built of brick and cut stone, and capable of harboring 1,500 large vessels.

In September, 1875, W. W. Barry, Esq., an English lawyer, was lost in the Tyrol. His body has recently been discovered on the Krimmler Tauern, a pass in the mountains about 9,000 feet above the sea level. It is supposed that he died from the effects of a storm while resting, exhausted, upon some rocks about twenty feet from the path. A number of English sovereigns and a gold watch were found near his skeleton.

A new sect of the Greek Church is attracting some attention in Russia. It is called "The Purifiers." Its principal distinctive tenets are, that all must marry on coming of age; that the husband must be subordinate to the wife, recognizing her as the head of the family; and that he must confess his sins to her once a week. That religion was certainly invented by one of the strong-minded females of the Empire.

Bridgeport, Connecticut, has adopted an excellent plan to meet the exigencies of the tramp nuisance. A cheap lodging house is put up, where tramps may obtain breakfast on paying for it by two hours' work in breaking stones, which are afterwards used for macadamizing the streets. Tramps can be referred to this place for food; the deserving will do the work gladly, the loafing vagabond will shun the town.

The Russians have been for some time manufacturing condensed forage for wintering the cavalry horses of the army. At St. Petersburg five large ovens turn out 30,000 pounds in twenty-four hours. It is a composition of oatmeal, pea flour, rye meal, and ground linseed, with a little salt. The mass is made into dough, rolled out into cakes, and cut into biscuits three and a half inches in diameter. After being dried in the ovens they are strung on wires ready for shipment. This will do for horse feed, and the army may be victualled; but those iron huts which were to shelter the troops have been gobbled by the British Government as contraband of war.

California claims the honor of manufacturing the largest plow ever made in America. It was turned out of a Stockton factory. It was designed to work in the tules. It will cut a furrow thirty-eight inches wide. The mold board is eight feet long from the point to the end, sweeping upwards with a curve of about four feet radius. At the end it stands two feet above the ground. The land side is seven feet long. At the rear, a horizontal cutting plate is arranged to cut under the sod on the land side a distance of ten inches. The furrow will be cut as shallow as possible, not exceeding three or four inches. The plow will be attached to a sulky, and will require a team of twelve stout animals to pull it.