ENING NEWS. August 26, 1869 Thursday, PROTESTANT MINISTERS' ARGU MENTS FROM THE MALE IN FAVOR OF PATRIABUNAL NARRIAGE.

admitted into the church. After fre-

"If a convert, before becoming a Christian, has married more wives then one, in accordance with the prac-tice of the Jewish and primitive Chris-tian churches, he shall be permitted to keep them all, but such a person is not eligible to any office in the church." eligible to any office in the church." "To those who have doubts in respect

to the intrinsic moral lawfulness of plurality of wives as it existed among the ancient Jews, and who wish further to examine this subject, the consideration of the following extracts from a work called 'Thelyphthora,' published anonymously * many years ago in England, is recommended. The author of this work says:

"Can it be imagined that Christ, so remarkable for his precision, so thoroughby accurate in all He said on every other point, should use so little in this, as not to make Himself understood by His hearers? Nay-that He should observe so little precision, as not to de-scribe an offense, which we are to suppose Him to condemn? The most flagrant instances, the most obvious and palpable definitions of a plurality of wives cannot be understood from what He says.-He that putteth away his wife, by bill of divorcement, and mar-rieth another-does not describe a man's lished by the eminent divine, Bishop another."

"Now, if a plurality of wives was Times." unlawful, and of course null and void before God, then was not Christ legally descended of the house and lineage of tion: David, but from a spurious issue, not only in the instances abovementioned, but also in others which might be men-tioned. So that when Christ is supposed to condemn a plurality of wives as adultery, contrary to the institution of marriage, and to the seventh com-of them he had, are termed by the promandment, He must at the same time phet, God's gift to him: yes, a plurality be supposed to defeat his own title to the character of the Messiah, concernthe character of the Messiah, concern-ing whom God had sworn to David, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh. He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne. See Acts 2: 30. with Pa. 132: 11." "The lawfulness of a plurality of wives muss of course be established, or the whole of Christianity must fall to the ground, and Christ not be He that was to dome, but we muss look for another. Matt. 11: 2." "The learned Seiden has proved, in his "The learned Seiden has proved, in his Uxor Hebraics, that a plurality of wives was allowed, not only among the He-brews, but among most other nations throughout the world; doubtless among the inhabitants of that vast tract of Asia, throughout which the Gospel was preached by the great apostle of the Gentiles, where so many Christian churches were planted, as well as in the neighboring states of Greece: yet in none of Paul's epistles, nor in the seven awful epistles which St. John was ceni-Matt. 11: 3.17 awful epistles which St. John was com-manded to write to the seven churches "But, says an objector, if it be adultery manded to write to the seven churches in Asia, is a plarality of wives found then to take another woman after an amongst the crimes for which they unjust divorce, it will follow that the were reproved. Every other species of wife has that right over the husband's commerce between the sexes, is dis-tinctly and often mentioned, this not "This is indeed plausible, and it is all once, except on the woman's side, as that can be brought from the New Tes-Rom. 7: 3; but had it been sinful and tament, which seems convincing; yet it against the law on the man's side, it is will not be found of weight. inconceivable that it should not have been mentioned on both sides equally." Grotius observes, 'Among the Pa-ilty of wives, it being so deepty rooted in the men of that age, commend by uue wife;' and we do not find the apos- such fashions and unquestioned precetie making this any bar to church- dents, and riveted by so long a practice, membership. It can hardly be sup-posed, that if a plurality of wives were sinful, that is to say, an offense against the law of God, the great apostle should his words by the search of logic. be so liberal and so particular, in his epistle to the Corinthians, in the con-more clear by any of the apostles in demnation of every other species of il-licit commerce between the sexes, and no farther, than the design upon which yet omit this in the black catalogue, they were written will lead them to; so chap. 6:9, &c., or that he should not be that our Lord being, in that place, to chap. 6:9, dc., or that he should not be as zealous for the honor of the law of marriage, and of the seventh command-ment, which was evidently to maintain it, as Ears was for that positive law of Deut. 7: 3. against the marrying with heathens. Exra made the Jews put away the wives which they had illegal-ly taken, and even the very children

the sin of fleshly ancleannes; had a plurality of wives been of this kind, he doubtless would have preached against. it, which, if he had, some trace would most probably have been bett of it, as there is of his preaching against the sin of whoredom, by the harlots being said to believe on simt which they cortainly would not have done, any more than the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 21: 32.) (Concluded.) We make the following extracts from a work published on "findia, len, D. D., Missionary of the American Board, for twenty-five years in India, Board, for twenty-five years in India, Board for tw Board, for twenty-five years in India, etc. They are published in his work in an appendix devoted to the subject of Pelygamy. This subject was taken into demsideration by the Calcutta Missionary Conference, composed of Missionaries from various sects of Eng-land and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-land and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-land and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-land and America, and including Epis-iand and America, and including Epis-tic regativenalists. In consequences of the application of converts in India, who had been legally married to severe the case, is it conceivable that a man of who had been legally married to seve the case, is it conceivable that a man o ral wives and who had given credible the Bantist's character, who was so evidence of their personal plety, to be the loss for the honor of the law, is to admitted into the church. After fre- reprove even a king to his face for adultery, should suffer, if a plurality of ation the Conference unanimously wives be adultery, a whole nation, as it, came to the following conclusion: were, of public adulterers, to stand before him, and not bear the least testi-mony sgainst them? I do not say this

thing."

"While this system n of a plarality of "While this system of a plarality of wives was reverenced and elserved, we read of no soultary, whoredom, and common prostitution of women among het daughters of Israel: no brothels, street walking, venereal diamse: no child-murder, and those other appen-dages of female ruin, which are too horrid to particularize. Nor were these things possible, which, since the revo-cation of the divine system, and the es-tablishment of human systems, are become inevitable. The supposing our blessed Savior came to destroy the di-vine law, or after it with respect to marriage, is to suppose Him laying a foundation for the misery and destruc-tion of the weaker sex."

taking two wives together, and cohabit- Burnet, who was elevated to the see of ing with both; nor-a man's having Salisbury, England, by William III., cohabiting with both. Such was the and who is described as a learned, judi-Old Testament plurality of wives, not clous and excellent Bishop, Heisknown the putting away one in order to take principally by his "History of the Reformation," and by that of "His own





"No man could have a fairer opportunity to bear his testimony against a national sin, than the Baptist had; for it is said (Matt. 3; 5.) Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea, and

The tract was written on the ques-

"Is a plurality of wives in any case

lawful under the Gospel? "Neither is it [a plurality of wives] any of wives was made in some cases a duty by Moses' law; when any died without

is holy in all His ways.

ly taken, and even the very children which they had by them; how is it that Paul, if a plurality of wives was sinful, did not make the Gentile and great and visible imminent hurardsthat the Jewish converts put away every hang over so many thousands, if it be not allowed."



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