DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

THURSDAY, - APRIL 11, 1895.

CHANGED HIS BELIEF.

Another prominent scientist seems to have suffered shipwreck of faith, being cast adrift on the theological rocks of modern criticism of the Bible. As announced in the dispatches Dr. Richard Smith, professor of Greek, Hebrew and Scripture at a theological college in West Virginia has resigned his chair on account of a change of religious views. The learned scholar is inclined to doubt the inspiration of certain portions of the Bible and whether he great inspiration at all, he believes the Scriptures are inspired in no more sense than the great book, for instance, Paul and other writers of the Bible were inspired men just as were Martin Luther or John Wesley in later times. This being, from a Methodist point of view, heresy, the professor resigned his position in that denomination.

It is perhaps only natural that among biblical scholars, who chiefly are concerned about the languages in which the sacred books were written, and who are masters of that peculiar situation to a critical study of the text and the variations in readings, etc., there should be a tendency to doubt as regards inspiration, just as there is a tendency to materialism and other forms of infidelity among a large class of students of the physical sciences. They are so absorbed in the phenomena of the perceptible universe that they have no eye for the spiritual forces on which they depend. With the noted Christlingite professor who told his audience he had been studying nature for fifty years without being able to discover the slightest trace of a soul in the human body, they are inclined to think that what they cannot see does not exist. In the same way, critical scholars of the Bible are so at first themselves tortured by doubts, because they encounter difficulties in reconciling the presence of a Divine element in a book that bears so many marks of human imperfection. As stated, this tendency to skepticism on an important point is easily accounted for by the very plain fact that it is owing to the fact that the various divisions of the great churches of the world are all in error regarding the personality and the Spirit of the Supreme Being, we well as his relation to the children of men, and the revelations given. Were these points clear, the doctrine of inspiration would cause no little difficulty.

In one sense it is undoubtedly true that men like Martin Luther and John Wesley were inspired. As far as they were instrumentals in the hand of Providence to perform the work to which they were devoted, they were under the influence of the Divine Spirit. So were numerous others in different parts of the world, with all their freedom of perception and other imperfections. But on that account is the conclusion hard to make that Paul and other biblical authors possessed inspiration in no higher degree than these? Certainly not. Neither Luther nor Wesley claimed the authority with which Paul spoke when announcing the will of the Lord.

Turning to the Bible, it is evident that both Old and New Testaments authors claim that their writings are composed under the guidance of the Spirit. The Scriptures, therefore, such claim to be equally in the nature of the Lectures on the Old Testament and the revelations given to the Church in this age—are the utterances of the Divine will, expressing the ideas the Holy Spirit intended as near as the world in time in human language by the human instruments employed. The authors had the special gifts of inspiration, however—in the language of a prominent theologian—not suited in the sacred writers of different and faithful research, of the expression of the same truth in different words of each in Divinely ordained, the reason as would be likely to arise from the different standpoints of each author, of questions in inspired and unbiased discussion, and of peculiarities of style arising from a variation of intellectual structure and from educational and other influences. These facts are all stated by the inspired writers themselves and do not appear to reveal any serious difficulties. But when an attempt is made to form a theory embodying these facts, difficulties will arise until the point has to be admitted that inspiration and revelation are so much a part of the Christian religion in the ages as in former dispensations it was evidence against the theology of the world that its most cultured students stumble and fall over one of the fundamental traits of the Christian religion.

TENDING BABEL-WARD.

It has been humorously said of Lowell in that it is bounded east, south, west and north by the Merrimac—the northern, the southern, the western and the eastern branches. If—the spirit of this fashionable metropolis be true, it is bounded on the Northeast and east by Babel, that now is the only topic upon the course of the whole nation, but also below the surface of the ground on which the city is located. A complaint as to the number of trains and the amount of steam used in those subterranean works, with those that enter into the construction of buildings above ground, is sufficient to startling even when confined to the actual facts. It leads to speculations as to whether any tunnel or shaft that the Londoner is a forerunner of the most gigantic eye, and that while there may be difficulties in the way of the use of his marvelously speaking tin shadow over a much greater extent space, there seem to be no limit to the depth to which it may need to reach.

In ancient times in the building from the ground down, in the prevailing American style of building from the ground up. While the Yankee metropolis-builder lacks to aim, he aims from the atmosphere. A few years ago there was no profit in building anything higher than three stories. Two flights of stairs gave as much exercise as any people wanted to get up. Above that income rather for an material a condition in that that street would not be carried to the end of mountains. Now all this is changed. Elevators have solved the problem in the entire satisfaction of proprietor and tenant. Dry-storage building has become a fine art, and problems and theories to twenty story buildings are today as common as five story structures were a score of more years since. So that, as a Billing office to the description of the British metropolis above given, is may now be said of the American chief city that a greater number of persons are transported daily to a vertical direction than in a horizontal.

THE WEST FOR EASTERNERS.

The efforts of western men in the East to call the attention of the people of eastern states to the extra-large opportunities for settlers in the arid region of the West are bearing much favorable fruit and continued, and from present indications it would seem that there is strong probability of a heavy drift of population to the west of the Mississippi within a few years. It is not often that the opportunities of the West as a place of homes can be set forth clearly and forcibly before the readers of society and culture in eastern cities, but it was done to Boston and Worcester by William E. Smythe (formerly of this city), chairman of the national irrigation committee of the Irrigation Congress. The meeting was presided over by Edward Everett Hale, and was under the auspices of the leading sociologists and humanitarians of "the Hub." Mr. Smythe's address was listened to with deep interest, as he depicted the opportunities presented by irrigation farming in the West to the men who were willing and able to work. He pointed out the advantages of the small farm, taking Dr. a typical illustration of what might be accomplished one of the farming towns of Weber county, Utah.

Mr. Smythe is going to visit New York on the same mission and had to his presence in Boston. This fact is given prominence in the metropolitan journals, and one of them, the *Mail and Express* gives an interview on New York. West," with Samuel E. Hilner, who is secretary of the state of Pennsylvania Bishop, who tells the Mail and Express that the West is the best part of the country. Mr. Hilner says:

"One of the great misfortunes in large of the West are a lack of moderate means in the difficulties in the course of living as compared with the East. The cost of living is much higher than in the West, and the income is not so large. The cost of living is much higher than in the West, and the income is not so large. The cost of living is much higher than in the West, and the income is not so large