

EDITORIALS.

AERIAL TELEGRAPHY.

THE latest development in the art of telegraphy is a plan for establishing communication by electric currents without the use of connecting wires. Some experiments have been made in West Virginia, by Professor Loomis, which were thoroughly successful. The plan is based on the theory of electric currents in the upper atmosphere, and that communication really takes place, not over the wires but through the ground. A wire is run up to a certain altitude, reaching a particular current, another wire at a distance is erected at a similar elevation to touch the same current, when communication is at once established without any other connection.

Professor Loomis also sent up two kites at a distance from each other of eleven miles. A fine copper wire was substituted, in each case, for the string. As soon as they both reached the same current communication was made immediately over that distance; by means of the Morse instrument and one invented by Loomis.

The gentleman has conceived the idea, which he will proceed to put into practical operation, of testing this method of aerial telegraphy by experiments from one of the highest peaks of the Alps, in Europe, and a point of similar altitude in the Rocky Mountains, in America. Money has been advanced by parties interested in this remarkable system, and if these experiments prove successful, another great revolution in our method of communication will be inaugurated.

It is not at all improbable that aerial telegraphy may yet be substituted for the system of submarine cables, and also for the wires and lines at long distances on land. How far electrical changes in the atmosphere will effect this plan does not yet appear. But if the system is actually practicable, experience will point out remedies for the difficulties which stand in its way, and although wires will doubtless be kept in use for a long time, especially for short distances, the cheapness of the new method and the facility with which it can be introduced into any part of the world, will pave the way to its adoption and ultimate triumph over existing systems.

The capabilities of electricity, its wonderful powers and its adaptability to man's uses, have as yet only been discerned to a very limited extent. Light, might and life are comprehended in its essence, and its powers will be developed as time and circumstances require, for the progress of humanity and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Eternal Father, the Great Master of all science and the Author and Revealer of everlasting truth.

COOK ON THE FAMILY LIFE.

IN his Boston lecture on "Infidel Attack on the Family," to which we made some reference last Thursday, Rev. Joseph Cook called up three ancient virtuous women to look into the eyes of the free lovers of modern times. All these examples cited by the lecturer were pagans.

Could not a Christian minister find any Bible exemplars as evidence of the beauties and benefits of the family condition? Are there no Scripture heroines who could look into the eyes of the anti-family philosophers? Where are Hannah the mother of Samuel, Ruth the daughter of Naomi, Miriam the sister of Moses, Rachel and Leah the children of Laban, Sarah the wife of Abraham the patriarch? Are they not worthy to stand up on a level with Phocion's wife, with Panthea and the filial Pompeian daughter? It is rather strange that a preacher of the gospel must go to heathendom alone for his examples, one of whom was a suicide.

But it is evident the citation of the Hebrew women would have proved too much; hence they were not called into court, to give their

testimony in favor of the family life and against the Strausses and Schopenhauers and Woodhulls. Their appearance would have barred any arraignment of "Mormonism." Their voice would have silenced any attack on polygamy. Their gaze would have pierced the soul of Cook as well as the infidels he denounced. And the women who "did build the house of Israel," who listened to the voice of Jehovah, and who were models of purity and faith, as champions of the family life against the loose morality of free love and the wickedness of anti-maternity, would also be arrayed on the side of the same form of plural marriage as enters into the system established by the "Mormons."

Mr. Cook professedly defends "the scriptural ideas concerning marriage and the family life" from the attacks of modern infidels. But in the course he takes in this lecture he only plays into their hands. The scriptural ideas of marriage include both the polygamic and monogamic conditions, and while he opposes one of them he abandons the scriptural ground and leaves at least half the field to his antagonists.

He speaks of the indignation that his three pagan women would feel at "the degradation that has come from the divergence of the ages from their natural ideals." But the indignation of the God-fearing and worshipping matrons of Biblical history, would burn in equal anger at him and his denunciation of the "natural ideals" and "family life" of their times, "divergence" from which has brought about the blighting, body and soul destroying social evils which curse the Christendom of which he is a defender.

In striking a blow at plural marriage, preachers open the way for the attacks of so-called social reformers upon the whole marriage system, and the consequent destruction of the family life with its joys, refinements, restraints and endearments, and its heavenly ties which bind humanity together and tend to the elevation and progress of the race. Their course is inconsistent and suicidal.

PIRACY AND LETTERS OF MARQUE.

THERE seems to be considerable conflict of opinion in relation to the subject of privateering, about which an article has already appeared in this paper. The London Times publishes an article showing that none of the signatories to the Treaty of Paris can issue letters of marque, according to the declaration of that treaty that, "privateering is and remains abolished."

But persons who have made a specialty of the study of international law, take a different view of the matter. And it appears from their construction of its principles that privateering is not only possible in the event of a war between England and Russia, but almost certain to form an important feature in the conflict.

Although a neutral power has no right to permit its subjects to receive letters of marque from a belligerent, yet the parties in the war may fit out private vessels, and by creating what they may entitle a voluntary marine, commit depredations upon the commerce of the enemy. A violation of the Treaty of Paris by either party to the agreement, can only be punished by a declaration of war, and as war would, in the instance in question, be already declared, the treaty, so far, would amount to nothing.

The effect of the contemplated war would be to drive most of the carrying trade into American hands. For the merchant-men under the English flag would be liable to destruction from the Russian privateers, and the commercial ships under the Russian flag, to a similar fate from the English vessels. No respect would be paid by either party to the private property of the subjects of the other, wherever found upon the high seas.

Prize courts form a curious feature of the practice of privateering. They may be established by a belligerent in neutral ports, and decide whether a vessel captured is a lawful prize. A vessel condemned as such, reverts no more to the

owners, it is the property of the belligerent power under whose authority it was seized. Even if retaken it becomes the property of the government under whose flag it is recaptured, and not of the original owners. If retaken, however, before it is condemned by a prize court, it reverts to the proper proprietors.

A privateer is not a pirate in the legal sense, unless it sails under letters of marque from both belligerents. A pirate preys upon the seas without any commission from a power at war. Prisoners captured on commissioned privateers are subject to the same conditions as prisoners of war in the regular forces, naval and military. Pirates may be hung up at the yard arm whenever captured.

It has been shown that vessels of war from neutral ports can be fitted out without technical violation of international laws. For instance, Russia might buy a vessel in an American port, unarmed, but equipped in such a way that it could be used for war if manned and fitted with the necessary armament. Sailing from the port, over three miles from the shore, it could then receive its guns and ammunition and men from another ship, and proceed forth on its mission of death and capture or destruction, commanded by a Russian officer with a formal commission. It would thus become a regular Russian war ship.

Russia has been consulting some of the best authorities on international law, and it is evident from the movements she is making that privateering will form a striking feature of the coming campaign. England also is not idle. Every movement of her enemy is being closely watched, and so sure as a privateer sails out upon the seas under the Russian flag, an opponent will be found for it, and for every vessel captured by Russian privateers England will exact great reprisals or inflict competent vengeance.

FROUDE AND RELIGIOUS UNCERTAINTIES.

THE article written by Froude the historian for the *International Review*, will not cause as great a sensation when read in full as was created by the extracts given in advance of its publication, with the comments of leading journals. And indeed the name of the author rather than the merits of the article on "Science and Theology, Ancient and Modern," gave it prominence and caused its assertions to be viewed with so much concern. The most striking portions of it have already been given to the public, and little more, if as much, comment will probably be made over the article itself than was evoked by the extracts that preceded it.

It is well written, and the history of the rise and progress of Greek philosophy, culminating in the theories of the Roman Lucretius establishing the sovereignty of science and the fallacies of paganism, exhibits the skill of the practiced historian, while his sketch of the swift advancement in scientific thought and the rapid developments of the last half century, with its almost corresponding departure from the standards of religious faith and ecclesiastical authority, show much thought and a just appreciation of modern advancement on the one hand and retrogression on the other.

Still there is a feeling of disappointment experienced by the reader at the abrupt conclusion of the article, and it bears the impression of an opening chapter, to a work of which it merely foreshadows the design.

There is one remark on which we offer a few words of comment. It is this:

"The universal assent which constitutes certainty has been dissolved into the conflicting sentiments of individual thinkers."

This rightly represents the chaos into which modern Christianity is drifting. It is the consequence of the absence of legitimate sacerdotal authority. Without a prophet, without a priest divinely authorized, without communication from the Almighty, except the dead letter of past revelation translated by uninspired and biased human learning from imperfectly authenticated

documents, it is astonishing that the elements of Christendom have adhered so much and so long as they have. Tacit submission to dogmatic assumption, the power of the gospel of force, the ignorance of the masses, the union of perverted churches with despotic States, and the slow development of general human thought for centuries, have kept mankind in the grooves marked by the machinery of ecclesiasticism, and held the world in the meshes of priestcraft.

The recent controversy on eternal punishment is an illustration of the lack of knowledge that obtains, among professedly authorized exponents of divine truth, in regard to matters that a few years ago scarcely raised a doubt, and shows the truth of the remark we have quoted from Froude.

But is not this an undesirable, even a lamentable condition of religious affairs? Endless disputes and no recognized standard. Doubt ruling, faith dethroned. The existence of God and the soul of man, the future life, the object of present existence, the accountability for human actions, the doctrines of retribution, redemption, eternal justice, and the triumph of right, all open questions involved in perplexing uncertainty. Verily this is a poor showing, after many centuries of Christian dogmatism!

Isaiah, the Hebrew prophet, speaks of the time when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God," when "All shall know him from the least to the greatest." It is very evident to those who think as well as believe that this can never transpire without further revelation, and the re-establishment of legitimate authoritative teaching. As the *New York Herald* remarked, when referring to the state of things described by Froude, "the world never needed 'thus saith the Lord' as much as now." Yet the theologians of the times are more hostile to any expression of a probability of such a revival of divine communication than the masses of the people. They assume the position that revelation not only became silent some hundreds of years ago but that its cessation was final, that "the awful voice of prophecy is closed for ever," and that no matter how tangled up in misconception, uncertainty and human fallacies mankind may become, the Eternal Father will never speak again to his earthly children and instruct them from on high. It was ever thus. Self-constituted administrators of divine truths and ordinances always opposed the actual word, authority and designs of heaven. They slew the prophets of old, they were the real crucifiers of the Christ. They instigated the murder of Joseph and Hyrum, the prophet and patriarch of the nineteenth century, and they stir up hatred and strife against those who have the word of the Lord for the people of the present age.

But the Church, whose central point is in this Territory, has the consolation, amidst the doubts, contentions and infidelity of the times, that a standard of truth is again set upon the earth, to which, ere long, the honest hearted and fair minded of every nation will gather. That certainly can be attained in regard to numerous questions that now agitate the religious world. That while individual thought need not be cramped nor personal freedom be in the least curtailed, there is in the Church an authoritative priesthood, holding the keys of revelation, which form the end of controversy. And that the spirit which moved upon the face of the unformed and nebulous mass in the beginning and brought light out of darkness, that manifests the deep things of God, bears witness of the Father and the Son, and guides unto all truth, is now ready to give sure testimony and make plain the path of salvation to all who will comply with the necessary conditions to its reception.

What has been revealed in this age of uncertainties forms a safe guide for the present, and when the world is ready for the outpouring, the word of the Lord will unfold hidden mysteries, disclose the principles around which human folly has woven the webs of obscurity, reveal things kept secret from the foundations of the world and flood the earth with celestial light from the glorious sun of righteousness.

"To-day, the wicked will do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." But the time is coming when judgment will

sweep away the refuge of lies, the power of priestcraft and the soul-fetters of the deceiver. Then the fogs of uncertainty will be lifted, skepticism will be slain, and faith will mount the throne of the human heart; the veil of the covering will be withdrawn, and the bright realities of the higher spheres will be as demonstrable as the plainest principles of the exact sciences. The dense mind may mock at the saying, but as sure as light dissipates darkness, so sure will that which people call "Mormonism" be the means of effecting these grand results.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A new disease is attacking the horses and hogs in some parts of Illinois. It is very rapid in its course and alarmingly fatal. It is a kind of paralysis, affecting the brain, and animals in good health at night, when attacked will die next morning. No remedy has yet been discovered.

Russia has purchased a death-dealing invention from Sweden. It can be fixed in the maintop of a vessel, and being worked like playing a pianoforte, and turned in a circle, it will sweep the decks or fortifications of the enemy, scattering missiles like jets of water from a garden hose in any desired direction.

One of the suburbs of St. Louis was treated last week to a shower of lizards, leeches, crawfish, bass, salmon, catfish, croppies, sunfish, etc. The downfall continued about an hour and covered about 30 acres of ground. After the storm they were carried away by the cart load. The *Journal* states that the facts are thoroughly authenticated.

A tramp tried to steal a ride on a freight train at Oxford, N. Y., the other night. In attempting to jump off while the cars were in motion, his clothing was caught by a hook on the side of the car, where he hung for three miles. He expected every minute to be dashed to pieces, but escaped without a scratch.

It is thought that the first point of attack by the Russians, in the event of a war with Great Britain, will be Vancouver's Island. Recently preparations have been made to defend its harbors from assault and volunteers have been mustered into the service. The only British naval yard on the eastern shores of the Pacific, is on that Island.

While the Great Powers of Europe are experimenting on arms and munitions of war, the little kingdom of Sweden is not idle. A rifle has been brought out in that country which will shoot accurately twenty-seven times a minute a distance of 1,650 yards. What nation can beat that for a shooting iron?

Diphtheria has committed great ravages lately in other places besides Utah. Out of 900 cases in Pittsburgh during a year past, 400 have ended fatally. Imperfect and obstructed sewerage is believed to have been the primal cause of the disease in that city. There is no doubt that most epidemics can be traced to deficient drainage, tainted water and decaying vegetable matter suffered to remain on the surface of the ground.

California has been smitten with the potato disease. It goes through the fields in streaks and attacks some rows of the growing tubers with a kind of vegetable small pox, leaving other rows untouched. The cause of the complaint has not yet been determined, and it takes an experienced potatoist to detect the diseased "murrhies" without cutting them open, as they feel firm and look as well as the sound ones. If the blight spreads a good market ought to be opened for Utah potatoes, which are the finest in the world.

Britain has been invaded! But it is no Russian horde, or Fenian band, or continental troops of any Power. The interlopers hail from America, and are in the dreaded form of the potato bug. Misfortune never comes alone, it is said, and the devouring pest has chosen Wales, of all places in the world, for its ravages; afflicted Wales, where famine already stares thousands in the face, and pinches many nigh to death. What new calamity is in store for the poor Principality?