

throughout the world. This body is constantly growing in numbers and influence. In the brief period of its existence it has circulated considerably over half a million of copies of the scriptures; and with the aid of the best scholarship of the age, professes to have detected and corrected more than 10,000 errors in the common English testament. This has often brought its supporters into public conflict with the friends of the common version, and caused no little display of controversial ability on each side.

Dr. Armitage, of course, has been obliged to defend his position and that of the Bible Union, especially in the substitution of the words *immerse* and *immersion* for *baptize* and *baptism*. It is but just to say, that he has fairly met the requisitions of such occasions, and proved himself as sound as a logician as he is eloquent as a speaker.

Dr. Armitage's social qualities are fully equal to his pulpit abilities. He is the life of company, full of humor and repartee, with a lively sense of the ludicrous and an almost tragic power of sarcasm. These qualities have procured for him a large circle of attached friends, not at all confined to the denomination with which he is ecclesiastically connected.

XCIV.

THE SEWING MACHINE INTEREST.

NEW YORK THE GREAT CENTRE.—A WORD OF HISTORY.—THE REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY.—THE WEED SEWING MACHINE.

A WORK upon current life in New York, and the vast interests which centre there and radiate over the whole land, would be signally incomplete if neglecting to notice that most important domestic interest, the Sewing Machine, which, under various forms, some good, others better, has become almost a recognized "household god" throughout the country, as well as a practical necessity for every well-regulated family—every family in which the wife, the mother or the daughters are not looked upon and treated as merely slaves or drudges; in which woman is respected, and her burdens sought to be made lighter.

New York has become the great mart of Sewing Machines for this country; and the warehouses which serve this great interest, and are mostly located between Canal Street and Union Square, on Broadway, are among the imperial edifices which adorn that grand avenue. Already the Sewing Machine business has become one of the financial as well as domestic "powers that be." Although young it is old enough to have a history, a narrative of the struggles of genius in giving it birth, and of patience and perseverance in urging its claims upon the public against a thousand obstacles; a history, too, at last, of mighty triumphs and crowns of literal gold. It will not be at-

tempted here to decide upon the claims of rivals for the honor of having invented the Sewing Machine, or any parts thereof. But be the honor whose it may, it is conceded by all, we believe, that the Sewing Machine had its origin in the brains of those who toiled for a living, and grew to general recognition at last, only under the fostering smiles or in the tears of hoping, struggling humanity—a peculiar child of the people. It is true that all great inventions have encountered great obstacles to their introduction to public favor; but, few, if any, have undergone trials at all comparable with those which attended the introduction of the Sewing Machine. Various were the objections urged against its use, the only sensible one being that of its great cost.

But other forms of the Sewing Machine than the first, were soon created; many modifications of the old form, and some original. The public wants became numerous as the Sewing Machine moved on in general favor, and the inventive genius of the whole country was taxed to meet them. Some of these new inventions had but a transitory life. The growth of the Sewing Machine proceeded until at last certain forms of it have become staple, and are respectively so good that almost every lady who has a Machine and unfortunately knows nothing of the merits of any of another kind, thinks hers is the best in the world. But, nevertheless, some Machines possess important advantages over others.

The number of Machines, we ought perhaps to note here, now annually manufactured in the United States,

cannot be far from two hundred thousand. In an article such as this everything like prejudice must be carefully avoided. In whatever family "SUNSHINE AND SHADOW" is found, there will likely be a more or less growing demand for the Sewing Machine; for wherever books go and are read, there will refinement, to some degree, follow. Literature begets the kindnesses of social life which move the rough and thoughtless husband and father to consider, sympathize with, and seek to soften the troubles and trials of the wife and daughters. Inasmuch, then, as we have made the subject of Sewing Machines one of special study, in which we have informed ourselves of the claims, and the merits and demerits of the principal ones, we feel that we shall render ourselves obnoxious to no charge of prejudice in stating the result of our inquiry. That there are several different and good Machines in the market it would be idle to question. The fame of the Singer Machine, that of Grover and Baker, the Wheeler and Wilson, and also the Howe, is justly great. But it would be strange if prolific genius did not in years invent machines superior to these, and we were not astonished to find that the instrument made by the Weed Sewing Machine Company, though comparatively new, is already occupying much of the field heretofore held by the older machines, and has become the Representative Machine of American ingenuity and enterprise, adapted to supply the most wants, and destined to be the machine *par excellence* of the future.

The large Warehouse of the Weed Company is at 613 Broadway, where throngs of people from country

and city can constantly be met during business hours. The popularity of the Weed machine is perhaps the best evidence of its superiority, and is so great that the Company have almost wholly abandoned, we are told, advertising its merits through the public press. The orders on this Company are vastly more than they can fill, notwithstanding their extended manufacturing facilities. Indeed, so widely and favorably known is the Weed Machine, that it may properly be said to sell itself. When a company gets to that point that it needs make no exertion to enlarge the popularity of its wares, it has to observe but one rule, namely, to put before the public only the best of wares; and to this point the Weed Company seem fully alive. The greatest care possible is taken that every Machine sent out shall be just what it claims to be. This honorable dealing upon the part of the Company, reviving the days, deplorably long past in most businesses, when our merchants were men of honor as well as of enterprise, has already had its effect in their favor. "This Company can be trusted for good work," say the people, "We will try their Machines;" and trial is sure to result in purchase. Simplicity is a great desideratum in a Sewing Machine, so say our female friends, especially; and this the Weed Machine seems to possess above all others. Hence, doubtless, much of that popularity which has commanded for it a place herein as the Representative Sewing Machine of America—an honor so emphatically recognized at the Paris Exposition of 1867.

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