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ARTICLE I.

APOSTOLICAL SUCCESSION.

All branches of the Christian Church hold to an apostolical succession in some sense; for without it there is no ground upon which they can claim, with the slightest color of plausibility, a divine sanction for their existence. Presbyterians, for example, hold that they have the doctrine, the polity, the worship, which were taught and ordained by the apostles. They hold that the succession is to be determined, not by history or tradition, but by a direct appeal to writings which are not only more ancient than the writings of the *Fathers*, but have, according to the confessions of these Fathers themselves, a *divine* authority—the writings of the Apostles. The body which now holds the doctrine of justification without the works of the law, is, *pro tanto*, a truer succession of the church to which the Epistle to the Romans was addressed, than the church now at Rome which denies that doctrine and curses all who hold it. The body which is now governed by a presbytery is a truer successor of the church of Ephesus which was also governed by a presbytery in the days of Paul, than a church of the present day which is governed by a prelate, an officer of which the apostolic records

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CRITICAL NOTICES.

A Harmony of the Four Gospels in Greek, according to the Text of Tischendorf; with a Collation of the Textus Receptus, and of the Texts of Griesbach, Lachmann, and Tregelles. By FREDERICK GARDINER, D. D., Professor in the Berkeley Divinity School, author of "A Commentary on the Epistle of St. Jude," "A Harmony of the Gospels in English," etc. Andover: Warren F. Draper. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 38 George Street. 1871. Slim octavo of 268 pp.

A somewhat careful examination justifies us in a highly favorable estimate of this work, which is little more than a marked improvement upon Newcome and Robinson. The following are its principal distinctive features: 1. It aims to exhibit a critical text. The Text given by Dr. Gardiner is that of the 8th, and last, edition of Tischendorf. Where this varies from the *Textus Receptus*, the variant reading is indicated, as in Scribner's valuable edition of the New Testament, by a somewhat blacker type. This enables the eye to catch the amount of difference on a page, at a *coup d'oeil*; and to remark with gratification how slight after all that difference is. Wherever Griesbach, Lachmann, or Tregelles retains the reading of the *text. rec.* the initial G. L. or T. is appended at the bottom of the page; where any of them gives a different reading, that also is added with the initial. The three critics concur with Tischendorf in all cases where the contrary is not thus indicated. Additions to the *text. rec.* are printed in the text in thicker type and inserted in the margin with "om." before them. The editor claims that one incidental advantage of this plan is in the evidence thus furnished of a gradual approximation to a final settlement of the text. This may perhaps be reasonably questioned. It is certain that in glancing along the foot of the pages, the eye at once observes how much more frequently the letter G. occurs than the letter L., and both of these than T. This may seem to warrant the statement, that with the acquisition of larger critical apparatus, and the

great extension of critical studies, there is an increasing agreement as to the corrections required in the text of the Elzevirs. It may be doubted whether this agreement, even in the case of Tischendorf and Tregelles, has yet reached the point, when it is possible, or, if possible, safe, to prepare a standard text upon which scholars generally may unite as a new *textus receptus*. More remains to be done in this department than Dr. Gardiner seems to suspect, or is willing to allow.

The Harmony owes the excellence of its punctuation to the careful revision of Prof. Charles Short of Columbia College. The proof-reading has been done by a number of scholars. The formation of paragraphs is mainly the work of Dr. Coit.

2. All distinct quotations from the Old Testament are given in full in the margin, according to Tischendorf's arrangement of the LXX., together with the various lections of the Alexandrine text, and of the Sinaitic manuscript, and sometimes also of the versions of Aquila, Symmacleus, and Theodotion. In the case of any notable variation in the translation of the LXX. the original Hebrew is added. Allusions and general references are given only by chapter and verse.

3. A small selection of parallel references has been placed in the margin, chiefly for the purpose of pointing out the use of similar phraseology or incidents elsewhere in the Gospels, or passages in the Old Testament, which are deemed the basis of language in the text, or sometimes quotations in the Epistles, or allusions to the language of the Gospels.

4. The brief notes at the bottom of the page are not designed to serve as a commentary, but relate exclusively to matters of Harmony. These foot-notes are excellent, and embrace a thorough treatment of the principal apparent discrepancies. In one or two important instances the subject-matter is discussed in an introduction to the part to which it pertains. In such cases the foot-note simply refers the reader to the introduction.

5. The arrangement of the Harmony proper is that of no one man, but is the result of a full comparison of many earlier works. In the main it will be found to agree with that of Robinson. The device of Tischendorf, and Angle, of repeating

passages in different connections has not been resorted to in a single instance.

6. More paper has been left blank than in the works of Robinson, Angle, or Tischendorf; less than in Greswell or Stroud. The aim has been to secure the maximum of clearness with the minimum of cost. The same width of column is preserved for each Gospel in any one section, provided it be all upon the same page; but with the transition from one section or one page to another, the width of the column is altered as occasion requires. On the whole, the work of Gardiner is a great improvement in this respect upon Robinson, as well as in general typographical elegance. It is good to the eyes, and lies open well; like the best English books.

7. At the end of the introduction there is a synoptical arrangement of several Harmonists. This is said to be a new feature, and shows at a glance the general agreement on the main points of chronology, and, when difference exists, with which of these Harmonists the present arrangement agrees.

In general the order adopted is that of John, so far as it goes, with which that of Mark is found to accord. There is still, however, a portion of Luke's Gospel which upon any view is subject to conjectural arrangement. The difficulty is not one of inconsistency, but simply of a want of sufficient data. Fortunately it turns out that the points thus difficult to fix, are points of comparatively light importance. The passages having these uncertain relations are placed according to the editor's best judgment where they seem properly to belong, with full liberty to the reader to transpose them within certain limits.

The style of Dr. Gardiner bears a striking resemblance to that of such English writers as Bishop Ellicott and Dr. Westcott. It is precise and unemotional, altogether scholarlike, though sometimes a little lax and ambiguous.