ON OUR LETTERS.

FAITH AND SCIENCE.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,—I have read with interest and may I add pleasure, the letters which have appeared in your paper. Quite apart from the aspect of Christianity as a system of ethics, far which by the way it has no monopoly, the various writers would loss nothing by first making full inquiry into the foundations of the system as a creed, and this with the same open mind in which they would inquire into any other subject. I would strongly recommend them to read Prof. Huxleys particularly clear writings on the subject. They will gain much by so doing.

One rule that the same old "stock in trade arguments" are brought forth ad nauseam. Does this lessen their value? Another amusing method of proof consists in quoting the scriptures "counsel for defence might just as well quote defendant as proof. Has it not occured to your correspondents that the point in question is not what truth is there in the biblical statements?

There are some educated people who seem to have a closed compartment in their minds on all matters religious. This of course is the result of repeated suggest on due to their religious education in any particular creed. This hypnotic effect is so infinite that they are quite incapable of making the mental effort whereby they can reassert their reason and inquire into the subject and ab do by the results.

Sunum Corda appeals and rightly to scientific opinion on the sexual question, but why does he not apply to the same opinion also for a verdict on the fundamental questions of a creed? This is one of the strangest states of mind to be found amongst people who live on faith, they will rush into the temple of reason if there is the least chance to find there some favourable testimony on any particular point but they cons der the entire temple of reason incompetent when its testimony is unfavourable.

Sunum Corda must know, as all educated people do, that the verdict of science on the fundamental beliefs of the Christian creed is distinctly in the negative.

There are things which can never be directly disproved, and the a why the onus of proof lies on those who ever put forward some proposition for belief. For instance, if anybody asserts that there is a star made of green cheese there is no direct way of disproving the statement, in the same way, the alleged miracle of Jesus turning water into wine cannot be disproved directly. Fortunately however for the progress of knowledge circumstantial proof can be adduced for or against such statements and such proofs have proved valid for the conduct of practical life. I will not waste valuable space in your paper to bring forward such kind of proof against the statement that there is a star made of green cheese. In the case of the alleged miracle of water turned into wine the proof is that there has never been a single case in chemistry where one compound has been changed into another when being ordered to do so, and in detail, the compound water cannot be converted into flavoured alcohol. Therefore before this statement can be accepted as an exceptional fact the most rigorous proof would have to be brought forward. We know of course what sort of proof is offered for such extraordinary statements, just faith, which means, believe what your reason rejects. What has just been said about this alleged miracle is also true for all the other miraculous events which are to be found in the Bible, including the famous miracle of the Gadarene swine. The swine of Gadara. In no branch of science can one find the least proof that such things as devils exist or that they possess men and can be transferred to pigs. In no branch of science can one find a single case of a devil possessed man by a devil, or a devil possessed pig. Instead, a proposition were put forward to scientific opinion and research for investigation as an objective reality, do your correspondents honestly believe the verdict would be in the affirmative?

Just one more point. If material facts related can be proved inaccurate and erroneous, why should we believe all the other stories. I suppose it will be admitted that the majority of these kinds of statements are in the light of modern knowledge distinctly improbable, to say the least and against common experience.

I suppose some of your correspondents will call this old stock in trade arguments, if so they will do well to remember that an argument does not lose its value with age if it is valid, on the contrary the longer such argument is in its favour for if not valid it would have disappeared long ago. I read somewhere of a creed some two thousand years old who used the same argument called faith.

Yours, etc.,
Proof First.

Alexandria, May 26.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA SETTLEMENT.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,—Some little time ago you were good enough to publish a few letters of mine on the proposed scheme of forming an as ociation of British East Africans in the land settlement in British East Africa. An association has now been formed known as the E.E.F. ex-Soldiers' Settlers Association (B.E.A.) The Hon. Secretary P.O.B. 1546, Alexandria, will gladly forward objects and rules to those who are taking up land and desire to join. The Association is not a financial syndicate nor a philanthropical institution, hence will any further correspondence be entered into through the press. In conclusion I must thank you for your kindness in aiding as the medium, though which the scheme was promulgated.

Yours, etc.,
A.H.W.S.

Alexandria, May 26.

[The Editor wishes it to be noted that all letters can be addressed directly, so will enquirers kindly send any more letters concerned with this scheme to the offices of this paper.]

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UNREST IN EGYPT.

THE DEIRUT MASSACRE.

TRIAL OF ACCUSED.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

On the resumption of the trial of the 81 accused charged on various counts with complicity in the outrages in the Assiut-Cairo train on March 18, Habib Bahai, one E.S.R. guard who was on the train in question, deposed that at Deir Mowas he saw one of the accused beat an English officer with a stick, and also saw the officer's clothes. Mohamed Omar, Mohamed, brakesman on the train, described the composition of the train, and gave an account of the attack on Pope Bey at Deirut. Pope Bey was living when he was put in witness's van at Deirut. When the train arrived at Deir Moyas, the crowd discovered Pope Bey, pulled him out and beat him. Witness saw an Egyptian officer, Ibrahim Eff. Douain, beating the mob at Deirut.

STONES THROWN AT ENGINE.

Musa Abdullah, engine-driver of the train upon which the murders were committed, gave particulars of the delays at Deirut and Deir Mowas caused by the mob. At Deirut his "stuff" was taken away from him, but was later returned. Stones were then thrown at the engine. Between Deirut and Deir Mowas witness and the stoker were the only persons on the engine. At Deir Mowas witness got off the engine. He saw Pope Bey and two Englishmen upon it, but they were subsequently removed before the train started.

Mohamed Guda, who had been guard on the train, and was still suffering from a severe nervous attack, deposed that Shafik Hanna, one of the accused was the leader of the demonstrators. This accused had addressed the mob, shouting "Long Live Egypt," and "Down with the English." He had done nothing else.

Johannes Lupke, a Greek driver, deposed that one of the accused had struck him with his fist, believing that witness was an Englishman.

Abdel Rahman Radwan, a landowner at Deirut deposed that when the train arrived at Deirut station the two accused friends got off the train and told the mob that there were no Englishmen aboard.

Abdel Magid Ali, railway porter at Deirut, deposed that he remembered the murder of the officers. Witness described how two of the accused left the train, and walked towards the first-class carriage. One of them threw a stone saying "The Englishmen are there." Both of them told the mob to attack the train. Various accused, whom witness identified, then attacked the Englishmen. The officer Douani and the Sheikh Ghaffir tried to stop the mob by beating them.

"DOWN WITH THE ENGLISH."

Osman Kilani Mabrouk, Sheikh of Ghaffirs at Deirut, stated that previous to March 18 there had been demonstrations in the Coptic Church at Deirut, at which speeches were spoken, saying "Long live Egypt," "Down with the English." On March 17 there was a demonstration at the station. On arrival of the train at Deirut, on March 18, one of the accused shouted "Men can go on the train without tickets; there are English on the train." One of the accused was armed with an axe, and was beating the Englishmen. One of the police officers accused stood by, and did nothing, though he told witness to release some of the men whom witness had arrested.

Taha Nimr, Sol of Police at Deirut, stated that on March 18 Douani Eff. ordered him to go to the station, as the rioters were holding up the train. On arrival at the station, witness found the mob attacking the train. He attempted to stop them, and Douani Eff. helped him. 29 men were arrested, but the acting-Mamour (one of the accused) released them. Demonstrations had taken place at Deirut from March 14 to March 18. Witness had heard one of the accused addressing the mob, saying: "You Egyptians should unite for your independence. You must oppose the English. If the police interfere with you, you must excuse them first, and then oppose them."

Cross-examined by Mr. Russel, witness said that the acting-Mamour gave no reason for the release of the prisoners, and asked witness to conceal the fact. At the enquiry on March 18, witness was frightened, and said whatever the acting-Mamour told him to say.

Abu Bakr Kilani, son of the Omda of Deirut, and Chief of the railway ghaffirs, deposed that there had been demonstrations at Deirut prior to March 18, at which he had seen two of the accused, and Mohamed Yusef. One of the accused had spoken of independence to a crowd of all classes, and told them they must unite.

Case proceeding.

THE MINIA DISTURBANCES.

The Military Authorities have appointed Mr. Foster, the well-known barrister, as prosecutor in the Minia Military Tribunal at the trial of the rioters. The Military Tribunal, says an Arabic contemporary has acquitted the person charged with having attempted the murder of Moussa Bey, Moudir of Minia, on March 28 last. The tribunal sentenced others to penal servitude and imprisonment varying from one month and eighteen months.

A LUNATIC'S SUICIDE.

The Cairo Hakendaria has been informed that a patient of Dr. Warnock's in the Abbassia Hospital has committed suicide

EGYPT AND SYRIA.

THE OLD TIMBER TRADE.

(By Joseph Offord.)

In ancient times the Egyptians even at the earliest period of which we have any record of their doings used to procure large quantities of timber from the coasts of North Palestine and Syria. The famous papyrus, which we hope is still safe at St. Petersburg, of the voyage of Wen Amôn to fetch Lebanese timber for the Pharaoh's temple, is one instance of this and there are other reports preserved upon papyri treating of this maritime traffic.

As with all matters existing contemporarily with the Old Testament story of things about Palestine this commerce is fully referred to in the historical Bible books. For instance, Hiram of Tyre, the great Master-builder as all worthy freemasons know helped Solomon greatly in erecting the first Mount Zion temple, especially with the timber work. He wrote to the Hebrew king "My servants shall bring thee down from Lebanon to the place thou shalt appoint," referring to his gift of mountain Cedars.

Another cause of the commerce in Syrian timber—also of woods of shorter and more varied kinds from Cilicia—was the vast demand for ship building. Ezekiel speaking of this industry amongst the Phoenicians as building for Syrian ship planks, the fir trees of Senir from the long lofty range of Hermon; for the masts, Lebanon cedars; for oars, the oaks of Bashan, and for the benches he uses a word translated "ivory," from Cyprus. The vessels were not of any great size, and so to obtain the sweep, or bend, necessary to have a curve in the hull, certain wood that would bend and not, when so doing, break, was necessary. The ships were required to ascend the river mouths of the Delta and so were not deep in draught. The absence of the mariner's compass made disaster, sooner, or later, inevitable because of the necessity of keeping within sight of shore, an unenviable position in a gale. Up Palestine way and the southern coast of Asia Minor the East wind seems to have been the most dreaded foe. Ezekiel, "Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters, the East wind has broken thee in the midst of the sea." Doubtless these writers had their eyes down upon the sea from Carmel, and seen the galleys and ships blown out to sea by a strong offshore gale to be swamped when swept into the high waves away from the lee shore.

But Hiram alludes to the timber coming by means of floats, or rafts, obviously carried out like the plan of despatching wood upon the Mississippi and Rhine to-day. This method would be especially suitable when whole trees of great height, or timber of long lengths was to be deported. Such pieces were particularly imported into Egypt to be used for the lofty banner masts placed outside the temple pylon entrances. The foundation for this little excursus upon the importation of Syrian timber into Egypt is a carved stone relief now to be seen in the Louvre, which was graven in the time of the Assyrian king Sargon, which depicts the departure of galleys, towing rafts of timber, from a port which from the design is almost certainly Sidon.

This relief may be studied in the small catalogue of the Assyrian collection recently printed for visitors to the Paris Museum as it forms one of its illustrations. It shows, upon the sloping hillsides above the harbour, trunks of trees waiting to be let down into the water, three galleys are to be seen, one towing a timber raft, the other, separate pieces attached by ropes, whilst the third ship is coming into port, for her attachment to timber also to be carried off. They are not war vessels but merchant ships, and being only intended for coasting journeys have no gear for sails. Doubtless they represent the voyage of timber intended for consumption in Mesopotamia, to which traffic the cuneiform inscriptions frequently allude. The Cylinder text of Sennacherib, only acquired by the British Museum some seven years ago, referring to that king's buildings says, "Beams of Cedar, and Cypress, whose scent is sweet, I caused to be set up." Such baulks of timber went to Alexandretta or Antioch upon the Orontes, and then overland to the Euphrates. Other similar exports, for Egypt, came down the coast to the Eastern Nile Delta branches, and were towed up stream as far as the depth of water would permit. We know from the papyrus of Wen Amon's voyage some of the products of Egypt that were returned in exchange, including papyri, for manuscripts. One peculiar branch of the trade appears to have consisted of sycamore, granite sepulchral sarcophagi, because Phoenician princes have been found interred in such in Sidon's necropolis, one of these coffins still bearing the original inscription carved upon it for an Egyptian general, as well as the royal Phoenician text.

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Mr. A. J. Michaelides' Gilian 7.12

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His Highness The Sultan's Meshaur 9. 0
Messrs. J. Mosseri & J. Adda's Arlequin 8. 8
Mr. Tosh Starrides' Syria 8. 8
Mr. P. Monferrato's Machivel 8. 6
Mr. D. Lazarou's Mesbah 8. 6
Mrs. A. Spiridopulo's Ismailia 8. 1
H.E. Ishak Pasha Hussein's Farida 7. 2

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Messrs. Schinaki's Armistice 8. 6
Mr. R. R. Beard's The Marne 8. 1
Kasim Bey El Masri's Kerveros 7. 8
Mr. Jules Cassanelli's Mimi 7. 2
Morsa Bey Abdel Gawad's Adamas 7. 4

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Omar Eff. Rashed's Eshitan 10. 0
Saad Eff. Saleh and Sheikh Hamad Hassanein's Rami 10. 0
The Kouessa Stables' Salama 10. 0
Mr. E. W. Sheffield's Naded 9 10
H.E. Ishak Pasha Hussein's Masrour 9 10
Nuri el Din Eff. Atti's Ghaibi 9. 7
Morsa Abbas Bey Abdel Gawad's Seham 9. 7
H. Argenti Bey's Brandy 9. 7
Messrs. J. Mosseri and J. Adda's Arlequin 9. 5
Mr. George Sciaucci's Metawra 8. 2
Mr. M. Hadji Panagi's Garran 9. 4
Ahmed Eff. Doma's Munir 8. 7
Messrs. Schinaki's Brulseur 8. 7

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Mr. P. Bellemi's Golden Grass 10. 0
Mr. P. Bellemi's Peep O' Dawn 9.10
Ahmed Bey Shoukri's Turkis 8.11
Mr. Paul Vallaki Holland 8.10
Mr. A. J. Michaelides' Order 8. 8
His Highness The Sultan's Chaste Diana 8. 6
Mr. J. Cordahi's Winnermint 8. 2
Morsa Bey Abdel Gawad's Lady Hetty 7.13
Messrs. A. Cassellis and Max Raybaud's Sweetheart 7.12
Mr. R. R. Beard's Milletream 7.11
Mr. E. W. Sheffield's Cylinder 7. 7
His Highness The Sultan's King Victor 7. 1

SCHUTZ HANDICAP. L.E.160. 5 furlongs.

Hussein Bey El Acead and Mustapha Bey Rifaat's Mourad 9. 5
His Highness The Sultan's Niblo 8.13
Mr. R. Clyde's Freyja 8.13
Mr. R. R. Beard's Minia 8. 6
Mirza Abbas Bey Abdel Gawad's Brin d'Or 7.10
Mrs. G. d'Auteuil's Red Robin 7. 8
Mr. A. Lazarou's Ivy 7. 5

SAN STEFANO HANDICAP. L.E.60.

Once round.

George Bey Lotfallah's Sofar 9. 7
Mirza Bey Abdel Gawad's Fath-el-Bab 9. 2
Mr. Jules Cassanelli's Melmoth 9. 2
Messrs. J. Goar and T. Ades' Pellah 9. 1
George Bey Lotfallah's Sabbah 8. 3
H.E. Ishak Pasha Hussein's Halabi 8. 5
Hussein Bey E. Acead and Mustapha Bey Rifaat's Chakhr 8. 0
H.H. Khalil Pasha Khayat's Marouf 7.12
H.H. Ismail Pasha Rabiar's Tulip 7. 8
Mr. R. R. Beard's Bin Boulad 7. 4
Mrs. A. Sevastopoulo's Omda 7. 2
Mrs. P. Monferrato's Nesim 7. 0

SULTAN HUSSEIN YACHT CLUB.

TO-DAY'S REGATTA.

The handicap for to-day's regatta is the same as last week. Class II. will start altogether at 3.15 and sail course H. Class I. will start altogether at 3.45 and sail course C. One Design will start at 4.30 and sail course C.

The start will be made by means of balls as usual.

AN APPRECIATION.

(To the Editor, "Egyptian Gazette.")

Sir,—Through the medium of your paper I desire to thank all those interested in the Metropole Picture Palace who have held out a welcome hand to the convalescents of the 19th General Hospital at their last special matinée show.

On these wet and hot afternoons, with nothing to go to, and no money to left to wander from shop to shop in order to beguile a few dreary hours, and one can imagine how much we have appreciated the opportunity of viewing some of the latest films, and before setting out for the cold and damp, I feel bound that we all will carry away thoughts of many a happy hour spent at the Metropole.

Truly is the Continental taunt justified that we take our pleasure sadly, but why should some other particular amusements such as shooting and fishing, rowing and sailing, etc., be counted out for perpetual punishment, is not clear. We hope however that Peace will soon bring relief to places of amusement in which Alexandria's sons are lacking and which the War has still tremendously hardened with restrictions and placards "Out of Bounds."

Yours, etc.,
New Zealander.

Alexandria, May 27.

QUARANTINE BOARD.

The Quarantine Board have decided to make the following notifications on Bills of Health:

Sheep scab exists in the Keneh Province.

Cattle plague exists in the provinces of Guirguch, Assiout, Minieh, Fayoum, Galiubieh, Charkieh, Charbieh, Menoufieh, Behera, and Dakahlieh.

Leeds proposes to pay its medical officers £1,000 a year instead of £700.

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The former Palais Zizinia, the situation of which on the highest point of the Mediterranean coast is so picturesque and well known, is being rapidly renovated and refurnished as a first-class Hotel.

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The extensive terraces, superb verandah of the New Victoria, overhanging the sea, should rapidly make of it a favourite society rendez-vous where visitors will find perfect comfort in an environment of delightful coolness and refreshing quiet.

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Mr. P. T. Barnes, the United States Wheat Controller, announces that negotiations have been completed for bringing four million bushels of Canadian wheat to the United States for distribution for the mills.

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