

Miscellaneous material from  
the Ernest Drussell North  
Sale



ERNEST DRESSEL NORTH  
SUMMIT  
NEW JERSEY

Portfólio No. 4.

Corr spondence in connection with  
Lamb Exhibition at the Grolier at  
which many items in this collection  
were exhibited.

Including original pen and ink sketch  
by Oliver Herford

Unpublished outline on "My Lamb Library"  
by Ernest Dressel North.

Newspapers clippings and correspondence  
re Exhibition of some items in this  
collection, held at the New York Public  
Library, in 1934.



WHEN Senator Ingalls was reported as intimating that the Decalogue was abolished in American politics, we were not inclined to take the proposition seriously; but the proposal of the Methodist Book Concern to abolish the Decalogue from the publishing business seems to us worthy of more serious consideration. The proposal itself is somewhat more startling, and the hitherto reputable character of the proposer makes it still more so. That an American politician should openly declare that the Ten Commandments are not related to American politics is extraordinary chiefly by reason of its unexpected frankness. That a professing Christian publishing house should propose to disconnect the Ten Commandments from American literature is surprising for more than its candor. It reveals a "new departure" from Old Testament ethics in a wholly unexpected quarter. It is true that the Methodist Book Concern does not propose to rescind all the Ten Commandments at once; it begins with only two: Thou shalt not steal; and Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor; but if it should succeed in this, other similar proposals may be expected to follow.

Mr. Stanley has just returned from a dangerous and protracted expedition in the Dark Continent. It has lasted between two and three years, and has involved a degree of expenditure for which most men who do not think the Ten Commandments are out of fashion will think him entitled to compensation. His manuscript account of his journey has been purchased by a publishing house in this city, and is announced for sale at \$7.50 for the two volumes. The Methodist Book Concern, under the firm name of Hunt & Eaton, announces in the "Christian Advocate" the publication of the history of Stanley's expedition, "composed of matter furnished by Mr. Stanley himself for publication over his own signature." They do not announce that they have paid nothing to Mr. Stanley for it, that they have made it up by means of those useful instruments, a pair of shears and a paste-pot, out of Mr. Stanley's newspaper letters, and that Mr. Stanley has advised the public, over his own signature, that, apart from his journals sold to his American publishers, "there is no other manuscript, printed book, or pamphlet, this spring of the year of our Lord 1890, that contains any account of this region of horrors other than this book of mine." Taking another man's literary property without paying for it is, since the abolition of the Ten Commandments, called "enterprise;" under that older fashioned but now obsolete legislation, it had a different name given to it.

The Methodist Book Concern, doing business at this time under the firm name of Hunt & Eaton, appears to be naturally apprehensive lest some old-fashioned folks, who have not yet learned the new ways from Senator Ingalls and the enterprising borrowers of other men's labors, might give to their enterprise its more ancient title; or might even suggest to the reading public that a newspaper scrap-book at \$3 a volume might be more expensive than the genuine product of the great explorer's own pen at \$7.50. They accordingly endeavor to protect themselves from criticism by the following testimony as to the methods of book criticism. Having some personal acquaintance with the editor of the "Christian Advocate," in which its publishers bear this extraordinary witness, we venture the opinion that they malign even their own editor. We are certain that they bear false witness against their neighbor:

"Do not be frightened by the unjust and untrue statements which appear in papers, and which are supplied and paid for by rival publishers. Remember that you can arrange with an editor for just as strong notices of your book, if you care to pay for them, because the business of an editor is to make money for his paper, and as long as you pay him for what you desire inserted, he will treat you just as kindly as he will any one else."

We hope that this paragraph may not escape the notice of any of our contemporaries, especially that it may not escape the notice of the maligned editor of the "Christian Advocate," in whose columns it appears. And we hope that he will tell his readers—we shall be glad to transfer his statement to our columns—whether in that journal the publisher "can arrange with an editor for just as strong notices of your book if you care to pay for them;" and whether his idea of the "business of an editor is to make money for his paper."

Meanwhile, though we mean that The Christian Union shall be a progressive paper, we confess that we are not able to keep pace with Messrs. Ingalls, Hunt & Eaton, and others of the modern school; that we are of Mr. James Russell Lowell's opinion that better than a cheap book is a book honestly come by, and that the laws, Thou shalt not steal, and Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, are excellent rules to be observed even by a religious publishing house.



This is absolutely false. It  
slanders alike the publisher &  
the printer. We do not believe that  
it is ~~known~~ <sup>known</sup> here as a self-  
accusation; that the gentlemen  
whose names <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ signed to this  
document would attempt to  
buy a favorable notice of their  
own publications in any journal,  
or would knowingly allow a  
purchased notice of any other  
publication to appear in the  
columns of the Journal which  
they publish. We know that  
editors of the Christian Advocate



totally well & we do not  
believe there is any  
doubt in the United States  
to have time to prepare a book  
which he <sup>personally</sup> ~~could~~ condemn,  
or condemn a book which  
he personally approved. The  
cheap text editions, who profess  
to be public educators,  
construct their books are more  
money makers, & their being  
satisfied with their readers  
to furnish an honest opinion  
of current literature, they



are always ready to find  
a statement true for a consid-  
eration, it is a prodigious  
bare & bareless falsehood.

If this slander has  
slipped into the columns of  
the Christian Advocate through  
the act of some underling  
when the slander was  
published Messrs Hunt &  
Eaton owe it to themselves &  
to the profession to make a  
retraction or explicit statement  
as the original accusation. If



~~be~~  
be sure that they will enable  
us to publish in an  
columns such a selection  
~~Next~~ <sup>our</sup> next issue.



they first to do so, the Slaves  
& the Slaveholders  
Slaves be fertile by the  
reputable persons of America  
from the sufferer ladies to  
the Gulf of Mexico & from



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