

The Open Court

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Devoted to the Science of Religion, the Religion of Science, and the Extension of the Religious Parliament Idea

Editor: DR. PAUL CARUS.
Assistant Editor: T. J. McCORMACK.

Associates: } E. C. HEGGLER.
 } MARY CARUS.

VOL. XV. (NO. 8)

AUGUST, 1901.

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CONTENTS:

Frontispiece. THE ANANDA TEMPLE AT PAGAN (Eleventh Century).
A Place for the Ex-Presidents of the United States. By THE HON CHARLES CARROLL BONNEY, President of the World's Fair Congresses of 1893. 449
The Legends of Genesis. Continued. Methods of the Narrators.—Laconism of the Legend Writers.—No Nature-Love in Genesis.—Economy of Details.—Unity and Coherence of Parts.—Variations on a Given Theme.—Plausibility Demanded.—Legends Not Pure Invention.—Etymologies Subordinate Features. DR. HERMANN GUNKEL, Professor of Old Testament Theology in the University of Berlin . . . 450
The Temples and Archæological Treasures of Burma. With Illustrations of the Temples of Pagan from Thomann's Collection. DR. ALBERT GRUENWEDEL of the Royal Ethnological Museum of Berlin . . . 464
The Exposition and the Passion-Play. J. S. STUART GLENNIE, Haslemere, Surrey, Eng. 480
Duplicate the Naval Academy: A Suggestion to Congress. EDITOR . . . 495
Joseph Le Conte. Obituary Notice. With Portrait. THOMAS J. McCORMACK. 498
The Encyclopædia Biblica. A Monument of Biblical Scholarship. EDITOR. 501
Synedrium or Pretorium? GEORGIE AULD 506
The Judges of Jesus Again. With Editorial Note. HENRY E. HIGHTON . 507
Adolf Bastian on the Ethnological Work of America 509
Pope Leo XIII. on Protestants 510
A French Anthropologist on Gobineau. PAUL TOPINARD 510
Book Notices 511
Notes 512

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<i>The Encyclopædia Biblica.</i> A Monument of Biblical Scholarship. EDITOR.	501
<i>Synedrium or Pretorium?</i> GEORGIE AULD	506
<i>The Judges of Jesus Again.</i> With Editorial Note. HENRY E. HIGHTON . . .	507
<i>Adolf Bastian on the Ethnological Work of America</i>	509
<i>Pope Leo XIII. on Protestants</i>	510
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<i>Book Notices</i>	511
<i>Notes</i>	512

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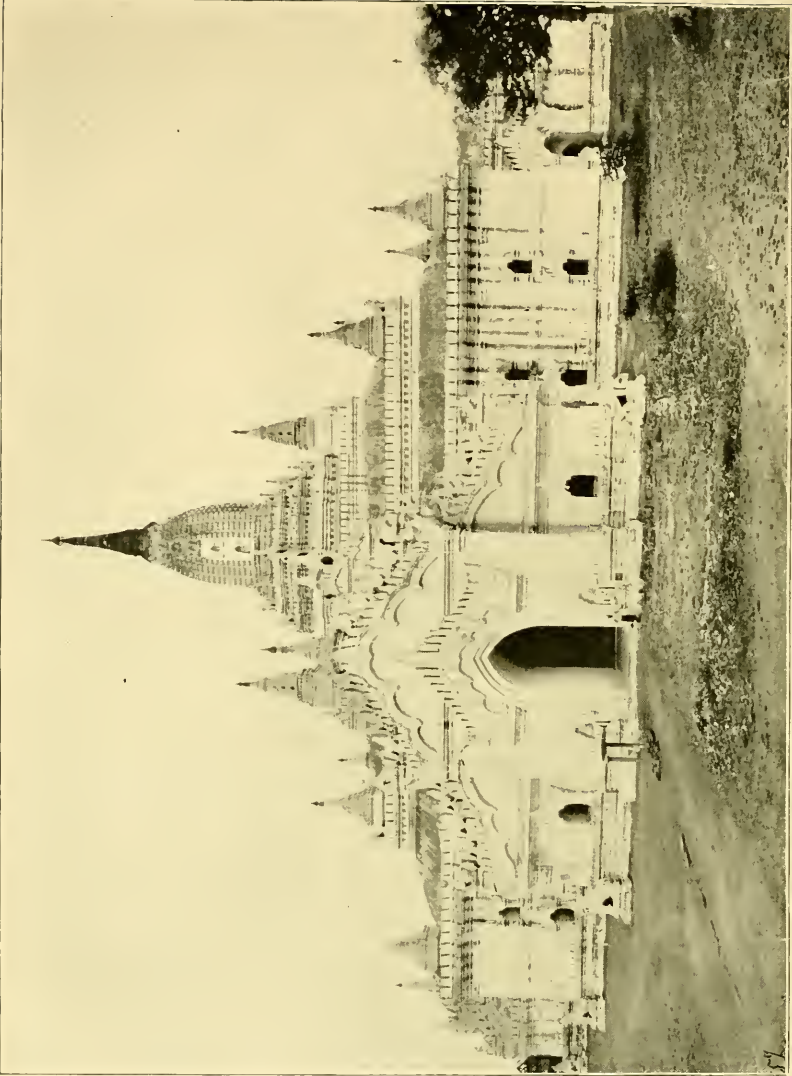
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THE ANANDA TEMPLE.

Greatest of the Burmese temples at Pagan, in four styles of architecture, Greek and Buddhist. Eleventh century.

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A PLACE FOR OUR EX-PRESIDENTS.

BY THE HON. CHARLES CARROLL BONNEY.

UNDOUBTEDLY the American people would be glad to make some appropriate provision for all surviving Ex-Presidents of the United States, and the present seems a favorable time for the agitation of this matter. It is therefore respectfully urged that without distinction of party but as a patriotic service, an amendment to the National Constitution be adopted without unnecessary delay, and submitted to the several States for ratification, providing that all such Ex-Presidents shall be *ex-officio* Honorary Members for life of the Senate of the United States, with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and compensation of a Senator, except that such honorary members shall not vote upon any question. Of course the voting power of the Senate would not be disturbed by the proposed change.

Such an amendment would secure to the country the benefit of the experience and wisdom of the Ex-Presidents and would give them an honorable and dignified position in which, there is no doubt, they would be glad to continue to serve the people.

The advantages of such a course are so obvious and so many, and the absence of grounds for objection is so noteworthy that it seems as though little argument or effort would be required to carry this suggestion into full effect. Indeed, there is no good reason why the State legislatures should not have the amendment before them for action next winter.

It would require a vote of two-thirds of each House of Congress to pass the proposed amendment; and a ratification by three-fourths of the States to make it a part of the Constitution. May we not hope that the next session of Congress will be distinguished by the adoption of the proposed amendment?