

MISCELLANEOUS.

MARS DUX AND MAR(U)DUK.

BY C. A. BROWNE.

"I cannot help laughing if I am to suppose that this was the way in which the name was really used."
Socrates in the "Cratylus."

"Marduk, warrior and leader of the Babylonian gods, is the same as *Mars dux* of the Romans."

C. A. Browne, *Open Court*, Nov. 1908.

"I am unable to agree with Mr. Browne that Marduk is the name Mars of the Romans and yet Mars as Grad-ivus is possibly Marduk as the Kurad or 'warrior' in Chaldaic epic."

The Hon. Willis Brewer, *Open Court*, Feb., 1909.

"I do not agree with either Mr. Browne or the Hon. Mr. Brewer with regard to Mars. Mars and Mar(u)duk are as much related to each other in name as an apple to a pineapple. It seems to me that Mars is an evolution of Mavors, 'war, deeds of arms.'"

Rabbi Sigmund Frey, *Open Court*, May, 1909.

I have been greatly interested by the efforts of the Hon. Willis Brewer and Dr. Sigmund Frey, in the February and May numbers of *The Open Court*, to dispose of my serio-comic ventures in the realms of Babylonian mythology published in *The Open Court* for last November. I agree most fully with what both gentlemen have said regarding my derivations and am ready to accept either one or both of their explanations as a substitute for my own.

But my two disputants appear to have done me a great wrong in taking my prefatory remarks to the selections from the *Cratylus* seriously. The five examples of chance resemblances between the names and attributes of Greek, Roman, and Babylonian gods were the effort of as many minutes random searching. My desire was simply to transfer the application of the Hon. Mr. Brewer's method of philological research from Egyptian to Chaldean mythology and to illustrate the ease with which etymological discoveries of this kind can be made.

That I was putting up a "straw argument" was sufficiently indicated in the two sentences preceding my references to the various gods and goddesses. "Similar resemblances can be traced between the names of the Greek gods, and those of the Hindus, or the Persians, or the Chaldeans. Allow me to mention a few discoveries of my own in Babylonian mythology."

Following this I cited examples of certain resemblances between the Chaldean names, Gunammide, Tiamat, Marduk, Eabani, and Aruru and the names of various Greek and Roman gods, without the slightest suspicion that this drawing of resemblances would be taken seriously. Yet in order to dispel any such illusion I immediately went on to say "Similarities in names and attributes as the above, however striking, are *not* sufficient by themselves to establish derivations."

I regret that, carried away perhaps by the subtleties of the Socratic humor which prevades the "Cratylus," I did not make my meaning sufficiently clear.

PEACEMAKERS IN TROUBLE.

These men of peace are unfortunate in easily stirring up strife. President David Starr Jordan, at the Commencement address at Bryn Mawr, repeated his argument of the nefarious influence of war upon a nation by declaring that France is now in a state of decadence because she had again and again lost her best men in battle, when suddenly M. Lucien Foulet, who holds the chair of French literature at Bryn Mawr, rose from his seat on the platform and with patriotic indignation addressed the speaker saying, "That is not so, monsieur, France is not decadent!" and in protest against the insult to his country, the irate Frenchman proudly left the hall.

In comment on the idea so prevalent in America concerning the decadent state of France, we will say that what foreigners see in the city of Paris is generally transferred upon the whole of France. The truth is that the French provinces show symptoms of decay neither more nor less than any other country of the world. What we consider as Frenchy (by which we generally mean frivolity) is to be met with in any other capital of Europe, with perhaps this sole difference that in Paris more than in any other place it is allowed to come to the surface. As to the French being smaller in stature than the men of purely Teutonic races, we must remember that this is not due to the extermination of the best men in the country, for the Gauls as well as the Italians were smaller than the Teutons from the beginning of history, and Cæsar attributes the huge bodies of the Germans exactly to the opposite cause than President Jordan. He says that warfare did not deteriorate the race of the Swabians, but had invigorated it to an extraordinary degree. We might incidentally mention that another cause of the fine Teutonic physique, mentioned by Cæsar, is the absolute prohibition of all liquors which, the Swabians said, tended to effeminate mankind. (Cæsar, *De Bello Gall.* IV, 1-2.)

We have received some letters from friends of peace in criticism of our position. One of them claims that navies are supererogatory, they are only apt to stir up trouble and since there are no pirates on the seas there is no earthly use for men of war. But if navies no longer existed pirates would spring up like mushrooms in all parts of the world and our merchantmen would soon have to go armed again as in olden times.

We have also been told that the police is no longer needed for keeping order in our cities. A few years ago when the street car strike paralyzed St. Louis, where women were roughly torn off from street cars, non-union motor men knocked down at their posts and law seemed abolished, we may remember how the present Secretary of Commerce and Labor organized a protective company of private citizens armed with guns loaded with buckshot, whereat