

common people if they have a heart to worship God. This is but a small part of what the Bible can do for men, and it is but incidental to the giving of its more serious message. But it is worth mentioning it here, because men are too often frightened away from the most winsome book in the world because they do not know what is in it.

(b). The people need the Bible *to give them hope*. The question "Is life worth living?" is ever hovering as a gaunt spectre in the horizon of many men to-day, and to live seems for them little more than to be perpetually pouring water into a sieve. They are working with forces that seem ever driving them to the wall, until at last they have lost all ambition and almost all hope. The message of the Bible is what these need. It will enlarge their horizon and let them see that our life's centre of gravity does not lie where they had thought it to lie; it will let them see that God is in the field. It will shew them what a broad and blessed thing life may become, because it may be possible for them to say, "to me to live is Christ." It is this hope and this outlook that the people of Ontario and Quebec need to-day more than they need anything else. And it is the Bible alone that tells what this life is and where it may be found. It tells of the new birth, and of forgiveness of sins.

(c). The people need the Bible also to give to their lives *a tinge of divine idealism*. The shadow of the other world needs to fall on our ordinary homes to give them the charm that always comes to the man who has the anchor of his hope in another world. I once walked in the Trossachs with a Highland shepherd who was bringing his sheep in the spring back to his home in the North, and it was impossible to walk far with him without realizing that those quiet mountains through which we walked and in which he lived had entered into his heart with their dominating idealism. This could be seen in the reverent glances he cast upward and heard in the quiet tones of his voice. There are grander and more majestic mountains than even these, but they are not seen with the natural eye, and it would be the greatest blessing if every home in Ontario were situated where their shadows fall. It is this that will give richness to the life of our people; it is this that will give them a charm that nothing can resist. The sweetness and tenderness of the home where