

## MISQUOTED SCRIPTURE.

BY REV. T. W. JACKSON.

WE have no copy of the scripture as originally given by God to man. The writings of David, Isaiah and Jeremiah, as originally written, have long since been lost to the world. We have



POINT LOOKOUT, YELLOWSTONE PARK.

no copies of the scriptures earlier than the third century of the Christian era. To reproduce the Word of God we have to depend on three sources. Manuscripts, versions, and the writings of the Fathers. The original scriptures were copied by hand (hence manuscripts) many times, and carried into different countries. Some of these copies went eastward from Jerusalem, and some westward, and were again re-copied, till, no doubt, hundreds were produced.

All the translators were under rules and restrictions most accurately observed, so that every change of comma or punctuation mark, or bracket, or word, was done by the authority of the best scholarship of the day. If space would permit, it could be easily shown that the mode of producing our present Word of God, clothes it with greater authority than if we had the original copies. The various manuscripts, versions and quotations are so confirmatory, that only the most obstinately blind can doubt them. Observing all this care and accuracy in producing the text, we ought to be equally careful in quoting it.

We will look at a few of the more general misquotations.

"From the sole of the foot even unto the crown of the head, there is no soundness in it." (Isa. i. 6.) "Crown of the" is not in the verse. It is said of Absalom

for his beauty, "From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him." (2 Sam. xiv. 25.)

Isa. i. 18 is often paraphrased, "Though your sins be as scarlet or crimson, they shall be as white as wool or snow." If you listen with attentive ears, you will observe how few quote it correctly. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, etc.—yea, she may forget" (Isa. xlix. 15), is a misquotation, and the speaker will pay a doubtful compliment to the Almighty that He is stronger than an abandoned woman in His love. But "they may forget," and you then contrast the love of God with that of every mother in the universe. "Every loving mother may forget, but I will not forget thee."

Ps. lxxviii. 5 is often misquoted, "A father of the fatherless, and a husband of the widow," instead of a "Judge of the widow." God judges for the widow, but He is not her husband.

Jer. xxiii. 23 is often expressed, "Thou art a God nigh at hand, and not afar off." This is not true, for God is everywhere.

The Israelites were in bondage and captives in a far country, and God says to them as a warning and encouragement, "Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places, that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord."

"Putting on of gold or costly apparel" is a quotation from the Discipline (page 22), but not from scripture. 1 Pet. iii. 3 condemns "wearing of gold or putting on of apparel" for purposes of adornment. If the "wearing of gold" be condemned by that verse, so also is the "putting on of apparel." But is not "costly apparel" mentioned in scripture? No, but "costly array" is, in 1 Tim. ii. 9.

"Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but thou alone must give the increase," is not in the Bible, and the sentiment contained is the very opposite of Bible teaching. After we have done our best God may withhold the increase. Paul is rebuking the strifes and contentions in the Corinthian Church (1 Cor. iii. 6), where they were split into factions, some admiring Paul and others Apollos. He says, "I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." This is past tense, not future.

The beauty of correct quotation may be seen in 2 Pet. i. 5: "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." These graces are developed one

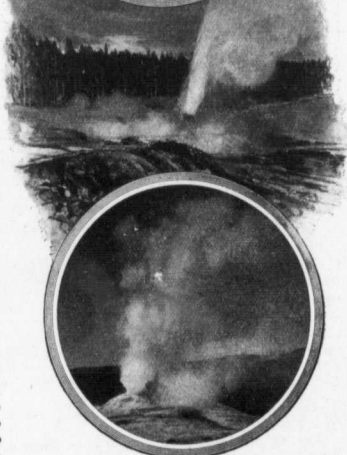
from the other in such beautiful harmony, that to misquote such a passage destroys its force and application. "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is often said that our Epworth League motto is not in the Word of God, though not used in the same sense, yet you will find it in Luke xxi. 28: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then 'Look up and Lift up' your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Elora, Ont.

## THE OLD AND THE NEW.

BY REV. J. C. SPEER.

WHAT marvellous changes have been wrought within the space of the last hundred years! The last century began with the hoe in the hand of the pioneer farmer, and it ended with the gang-plow throwing a half dozen furrows. Then the seed was scattered by hand, now we see the splendid Massey Harris seeder. The grain was reaped by the sickle in the dawn of the last century, in the evening-time of the century we behold the combination binder, like the



OLD FAITHFUL. MORTAR GEYSER. LION GEYSER.