

our attainments, and thereby ascertain whether we are declining or making progress.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," is an inspired exhortation which has never lost its significance. To "hold fast the faithful word," is at this day as lawful, as profitable, and as necessary as during the ministry of Titus. And if christians are required to "stand fast in the Lord," and be "a habitation of God through the spirit," and "speak the same thing," and be "of one accord," and "press on toward the heavenly mark," there are inducements and reasons the most serious, great, and numerous to become constant, apt, and diligent readers and learners of the divine volume.

On the subject of religion, however, there is a most slippery philosophy. The arts and sciences, and all that pertains to human learning, requires study; but the christian religion, and the whole volume of heavenly light and wisdom, may be learned in a moment!! The wide scheme of redemption—the immeasurable compass of God's love—the height and depth of Heaven's purposes in reference to a world of woe—and all that the Almighty Father has said and done, from the birth of time to the death of his Son, may, in a few dreaming moments, or in a number of elect days, according to custom, be fully understood, fully learned, and fully accepted! There is not a subject in the whole world of subjects on which the generality of men reason so erroneously as upon the subject of christianity. This is so well described in a recent poem, that we shall be excused for copying a few lines by way of illustration:—

"In science, learning, all philosophy,
Men labour all their days, and labour hard,
And, dying, sigh how little they have done.
But in religion they at once grow wise.
A creed in print, though never understood;
A theologic system on the shelf,
Is spiritual lore enough, and serves their turn."

In this manner speaks the author of the "Course of Time," and although he belonged to the good old Church of the Presbytery, he well knew the grand defect we have in view.

Is there a book on earth so unpopularly popular as the bible? We spoke in our essay last of the number of copies of the divine book, and intimated that there was a supply for all who desire to read. This, in one respect, is true; but it is only true in reference to the best portions of the best localities, taking into view the whole world. For