

somewhere this time—away from the bliss and joy of salvation. There are young hearts aching for a word of cheer and love. There are souls waiting to be saved.

As the love of friends surrounds us, and the love of Jesus fires our hearts, shall we not hear in sweeter tones than finest Christmas carol, our blessed Master saying, "Go ye out and compel them to come in" those missing ones on life's highway, who perchance are on the verge of despair.

Caring not for wealth or pleasure,  
Casting selfish ease away,  
Is not this our solemn duty,  
Christ's last precept to obey?  
MRS. H. J., in *The Christian*.

### BIBLE WORK IN OTHER LANDS.

THE work of Bible societies in promoting the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in other lands—Christian, Mohammedan, and Pagan—is impeded at almost every point by the reluctance of the nations to receive the gift that is proffered them.

The Church of Rome, wherever it is dominant, discourages the reading of the Scriptures by the faithful, condemns as corrupt all editions which are not annotated by the church and issued with ecclesiastical sanction, anathematizes all who buy or read "Protestant" Bibles, and so far as possible secures the arrest of Bible colporteurs and the confiscation of their books.

In the Levant, the Moslem power, alert to protect the followers of the prophet from apostasy and jealous of the growing intelligence and prosperity of its Christian subjects, throws innumerable impediments in the way of the sale of Bibles which its own censors have stamped with their approval, and laughs at every protest and demand for indemnity. In a recent letter Mr. Bowen writes:

A colporteur has just been sent as a prisoner from Afion Kara Hissar in Constantinople. We are not permitted to have any communication with him, nor have they been willing to give us the slightest information as to the nature of the charge against him, and as to the whereabouts of our books we are in total ignorance. This makes two recent cases which call for immediate settlement.

In Japan it may be truly said that the word of God has had free course and been glorified; but the anti-foreign sentiment there is still rife which despises Christian missionaries and the books of their religion and confidently proposes the expulsion of all foreigners from the land.

In China the conceit of the educated and dominant classes is such as to relieve them from all fear that a foreign religion can make a headway against their own traditional beliefs, and the Bible colporteur encounters indifference rather than official hostility; but this supercilious tolerance of foreigners as an unavoidable evil may easily become direct antagonism under the provocations to which the Chinese are subjected in the United States.

The fact is that the Bible societies are offering to the nations a book which is above all price and which is necessary for their enlightenment respecting truth and duty, and they despise the gift, loving darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. None the less is it the duty of the Christian nations to "hold forth the word of life," and offer to all mankind the law of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which are able to make men wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.—*B. S. Reporter*.

### HUXLEY'S TRIBUTE TO THE BIBLE.

Prof. Huxley's own testimony is that not only is he an agnostic, but that he is the author of the term. It is therefore especially interesting to hear what he has to say about the Bible.

"I have always been in favor," says the professor, "of secular education, in the sense of education without theology; but I must confess that I have been no less seriously perplexed to know by what practical measures the religious feeling, which is the essential basis of conduct, was to be kept up, in the present utterly chaotic state of opinion on these matters, without the use of the Bible. The pagan moralists lack life and color; and even the noble stoic, Marcus Antoninus, is too high and refined for the ordinary child. Take the Bible as a whole, make the severest deductions which fair criticism can dictate, and there still remains in this old literature a vast residuum of moral beauty and grandeur. By the study of what other book would children be so much humanized? If Bible-reading is not accompanied by constraint and solemnity, I do not believe there is anything in which children take more pleasure."—*London Public Opinion*.

### DOES IT PAY TO USE TOBACCO.

We will suppose that a person smokes two five-cent cigars per day, and, being a good man, does not smoke on Sunday. This would amount to sixty cents per week, or \$31.20 per year. For convenience in calculating, say \$30 per year. This makes about eight cents per day the year round, counting Sundays. Now, should this person, instead of spending his money as indicated, place \$30 on interest each year at 6 per cent, payable annually,

At the end of five years he would have .... \$169.00

At the end of ten years he would have ..... 395.25

In many places this would buy a poor man a very nice home.

At the end of fifteen years ..... \$698.32

At the end of 20 years ..... 1,003.20

Enough to buy out many a good business house, and pay all cash.

At the end of 30 years ..... \$2,371.33

At the end of 40 years ..... 4,641.51

At the end of 50 years ..... 8,707.61

If you are a tobacco user, examine the above statements carefully, and then decide whether you would prefer to have the amount indicated by the above figures, or the small end of an old pipe, with a tobacco habit securely formed.

### A PICTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

A writer tells of going down with a party into a coal mine. On the side of the gangway grew a plant which was perfectly white. The visitors were astonished that there, where the coal dust was continually flying, this little plant should be so clean. A miner who was with them took a handful of black dust and threw it on the plant, but not a particle of it adhered. There was a wonderful enamel on the plant to which no finest speck could cling. Living there amid clouds of dust, nothing could stain its snowy whiteness. That is a picture of what every Christian life should be. Unholy influences breathe incessantly about us and upon us. But it is our mission to be pure amid all this vileness, undefiled, unspotted from the world. If God can make a little plant so wondrously that no dust can stain its whiteness, surely He can by His grace so transform our heart and life that sin shall not cling to us. He who can keep the plant stainless and white as snow amid clouds of dust can guard us in purity in this world of sin.—*Selected*.