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ANNIVERSARY SERMON ON BEHALF OF THE UPPER CANADA
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PREACHED BY THE REV. GEO. M. MILLIGAN, B.A.,

In Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on Sunday, May 14th, 1882.

II Timothy iii. 16-17. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Two renderings are given of this verse. The one is that all God-inspired writings are profitable. This explanation of the passage has been objected to on the ground that there would be no need to tell us so simple a matter. We, however, must remember that many writings professed to be inspired of God which were not so, and the test by which the Word of God could be distinguished from "cunningly devised fables" was that the book given by God to men was profitable for the interests of true godliness.

The other rendering of the text is the one given in our version. It teaches that Scripture in all its parts is God-inspired, and is in consequence useful in promoting piety. The teaching of the text then is not that a book professing to be sacred is useful, and is therefore to be received as God-inspired, but that books God-inspired are useful for pious ends. Men are not to receive a book as given them by God because they perceive it to be spiritually quickening and edifying, and to reject it as uninspired when they do not. A God-inspired book is to be regarded as useful for "doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness," whether we perceive it to be so or not. Nay, we are to regard it as our duty to so live and meditate, and pray that we may come into those frames of mind that will appreciate what is written in the Word of God, which to the carnal and careless is hidden from them.

In short, two views obtain regarding the meaning of the text. The one is that the religious utility of the book is the test of its inspiration; the