

in the diligent and prayerful use of all your faculties, that you will acquire the art of teaching and interesting the young with a view to their eternal salvation. One of the best rules perhaps that can be suggested is, that you should strive to be much interested yourself in what you teach. When a teacher has thrilled his own heart with his message, he will have taken the most effectual method for thrilling the hearts of his youthful auditory.

THE BIBLE IN ADVANCE OF SCIENCE

It is the boast of modern scepticism that the discoveries of science, and the progress of philosophic inquiry will speedily render belief in the Bible as a divine revelation an utter impossibility to all thinking people. Well, have the friends of the Bible really anything to fear? Not if actual experience is of greater value than mere assumption in determining probabilities. Scepticism has long attempted the destruction of Christian faith, but it still lives—and flourishes; and in the buttressed walls of the truth in which it trusts there is not yet the slightest breach.

The Bible seems to invite the attention of "science": for it is by no means scanty in its references to *facts*—facts in nature, facts in philosophy, facts in the history of nations, facts in the manners and customs of men. What a dangerous field was this had not everything been perfectly honest and secure! What blundering has been discovered in the very best ancient histories; what ignorance have even the greatest ancient philosophers betrayed! But who has convicted of error any of the God-taught men who wrote the Bible?

The Book of Genesis was written ages before the science of Geology was thought of, and not many years since it was loudly proclaimed that the validity of its account of the Creation was utterly destroyed by "the testimony of the rocks." It was soon found, however, that the boast was premature. The discoveries of the geologist have only served to shed new light upon the Mosaic narrative, and as now interpreted the truth of that narrative is attested by all the formations of earth, and "graven in the rocks for ever."

What immense advances have been made within a very few years in Natural

History. "In my young days," a venerable friend once remarked to us, "Buffon's Natural History was considered quite a standard work; but, alas! how grievously my old mentor has been exposed within these last few years." Now there is a great deal of Natural History in the Bible—very particular references to the habits of animals. Have modern discoveries in this department of knowledge detected any blundering among the sacred writers? No; but every new discovery is giving stronger confirmation to the scripture statements. Difficulties have been removed from the path of the student by new advances made in natural history; and just as this and every other science advances, the evidence for the truth of revelation will shine with greater brilliancy.

Few sciences exhibit greater evidences of the ever widening range of human discovery than Astronomy. The school-boy of to-day could prove to the great Ptolemy that he was wrong; and that while he imagined he was writing philosophy he was only writing nonsense. But the most accomplished *savant* could not convict the Bible of error, however willing he might be to do it. The allusions to "the starry heavens" in the books of Job and the Psalms,—books written long before anything was known of the Copernican system of Astronomy, reveal not a single flaw upon the closest scrutiny. Not only is there nothing in the Bible inconsistent with the discoveries of modern astronomy, but the Bible takes for granted the whole of them. Does modern astronomy say that there are other worlds besides our own, and that there are, therefore, in all probability, other rational beings besides ourselves? So, without any conjecture, says the Bible: "The heavens and the earth were finished and *all the host of them.*" It speaks of "angels and principalities and powers"—the sons of God of different orders, peopling different portions of the dominions of the great Lord of all. Does modern astronomy tell us that suns and worlds have been consumed by fire, and that such a fate may very possibly overtake *our* solar system? The Bible anticipates this discovery, and declares that the thing which science deems possible shall surely come to pass. "The day of the Lord

will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

The friends of the Bible, then, need not fear the advances of science. The progress of human knowledge may leave us far behind. When our heads are grey with age our children may, in many things, become our teachers. The books we used at school may all become antiquated. But the Book shall remain as fresh and young as ever. A new Bible will never be rendered necessary by the results of scientific research. The modern materialist may imagine in the vanity of his heart, that he has attained a height from which he can look down with contempt on Revelation; but the truly philosophic mind will find in the sublimest walks of science abundant reason to admire the unsearchable treasures of wisdom and knowledge contained in the Book of God.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CHANGE OF DATE.—We have found it desirable, on account of the Sunday School Lessons, to change the date of publication from the 15th to the 1st of the month. The present issue, though printed only a day or two after the usual time, is accordingly dated, not December 15th, but January 1st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE. — As we go to press the Sabbath School Teachers' Association of Toronto is holding an "Institute" in Jarvis St. Baptist Church. We hope to have some of the good things connected with it in our next issue.

"THE BAPTIST YEAR BOOK for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island."—This important annual has been sent us from the publishers, Messrs. Armstrong & Hopper, *Christian Visitor* office, St. John, N.B. It is very neatly printed, carefully edited, and contains a vast amount of useful denominational information in very compact form. We wish it may be a financial success.

THE TESTIMONY OF AN OLD CLASSMATE.—The following, which we clip from the *Christian Visitor* of Nov. 20th ult.,