

word is, we shall never be able to teach others how to use it, until we learn to use it ourselves. The first thing that I have to say is this—that it behoves us in the face of every form of opposition to emphasize the reality of the revelation from God as constituting the peculiar quality of this book. The question of the Supernatural is the question of the hour. This is the turning point of all controversy. Does the Christian religion come from God or is it the product of human thought and aspirations? Does Christianity represent simply the outline of the world's past thought, or is it a revelation from God? Now we have amongst us to-day a peculiar class of men very willing to recognize that there is something in the Bible not to be found in any other department of the world's literature; but that it is the product of the world's thought, and that there is nothing divine about it, and that it is only literature after all. Against this we must firmly make our stand, and constantly, boldly, and clearly proclaim that the revelation is a real one, that this Book is the Word of God. In saying this I do not enter upon the question of the inspiration of the Scriptures. It is as impossible to understand the philosophy of inspiration as it is to understand the philosophy of regeneration. It is only by the impartation of the Holy Ghost that man can be born again. How this regeneration is accomplished we cannot understand, and we know just as little of the philosophy of inspiration, just as little as to how God works in the mind of man. It is sufficient for all practical purposes that we can say, as we are bound to say, that for the purposes for which the Bible was given its authority is plenary and infallible. There is no reason to suppose that Christianity must pass away as the other religions of the world have passed away. Our reasons for this belief lie in the principle that we have a revelation, and of our religion being based upon that revelation; and that we have the records of God's coming down upon the earth in order that man might be admitted to fellowship with God. It is not necessary for us to deny that there is a human quality in the literature of the Bible. The Bible is something more than literature, but it is also literature. The thought of God burns and glows in the living words of man; but it was not given to these Holy men to write by dictation but by inspiration. The second thought I have I can hardly call less important; it is that the Bible shall be interpreted in the simplest way possible. One of the utterances in the passage of Holy Scripture that was read this evening was this: "The entrance of the Word giveth light and understanding to the simple." The substance of Scriptural teaching is exceedingly plain, so that the entrance of the Word into a simple mind giveth it understanding. We do love simple things, simple speech, if it be but true. There is no beauty like the beauty of simple speech. Let us preserve our idea of the beauty of Holy Scripture by its simplicity of speech. And then, just soon word more. The Word of God having taught us what righteousness is, tells us how it may be obtained. These are the two great centres around which all other parts of the Scriptures revolve. Righteousness, we are told, in all the Scriptures is to be found in conformity to God, and all Scriptures emphasize the correlative truth that we can become like God only through faith and love. It seems to me that great harm has been done by not confining our estimation of Holy Scripture to just these themes. An infallibility has sometimes been asserted for the Bible that the Bible nowhere asserts for itself. It has been looked upon by many as if it were a text-book on astronomy, or physiology, or geography. We have heard much of the conflict between science and religion. It is time we cut this gordian knot at once and for ever. The Bible, from the beginning to the end, deals only with the double question of righteousness and how it may be obtained. Whole libraries have been written, and may be found in our Universities and