

of refining is going on? Oh yes, Madam, replied the Silver-smith, I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver is sure to be injured. At once she saw the beauty, and the comfort too of the expression—"He shall sit as a Refiner and Purifier of Silver." Christ sees it needful to put his children into the furnace; but he is seated by the side of it; his eye is steadily intent on the work of Purifying, and his wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random; the very hairs of their head are all numbered. As the lady was leaving the shop, the Silver-smith called her back, and said he had still further to mention—that he only knew when the process of purifying was complete, by seeing his own image reflected in the silver. **BEAUTIFUL FIGURE! WHEN CHRIST SEES HIS OWN IMAGE IN HIS PEOPLE, HIS WORK OF PURIFYING IS ACCOMPLISHED.**

#### STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

A poor woman was once asked if she had time to read the Bible? "Yes," said she, "I take it with my food; I read a chapter in the blessed Gospel every day when I come home to my dinner, and it makes up for the scantiness of my meal. I sometimes hire myself to people who feed me but poorly; they give me so little at meal-time, that I eat it in as short a time as it takes me to read the shortest chapter in my Testament. But then I can but think how much better my heavenly Master provides for the wants of my soul, than my earthly one does for the body. He knows I have but little time to take my spiritual food, and he prepares it so that a small portion will nourish me a long time." She was then asked, if she understood all that she

read? "Bless your heart," answered she, "I am a poor ignorant creature, and have no book of knowledge, but the word of God is plain enough to me in all things that I require, and I have no leisure to puzzle over what I can do without. When I am thirsty I go to the spring and drink; I always find good cool water, but I never trouble myself to find out how far the stream runs, or whether it is clear and sweet in other places." It would be well for all persons to go to the study of the holy Scriptures, with the determination to find out and apply to their immediate necessities, the thing which they really and urgently need.—*Philadelphian.*

#### COST OF A BIBLE.

Several hundred years ago, before the invention of printing, bibles were very scarce, and those who wished to own one could not obtain it without great expense. In the year 1272, a laboring man in England was paid only three half-pence, or a little more than three cents, per day for his work; and in 1274, a bible with marginal notes sold for thirty pounds, or about *one hundred and thirty-three dollars!* You see, then, that very few poor people would be able to own a Bible. If a poor man worked hard every day, and carefully saved all his wages for this purpose, he would have to labor about thirteen years, before he would earn enough to purchase a bible. But if we suppose it took two-thirds of his earnings to buy food and clothing for himself and his family, then he must labor *thirty-nine years* before he would have money enough to purchase a bible. What a great change has taken place. How different the times in which we live! Now, by means of Bible Societies, bibles can be obtained very cheap. The poor man need not labor more than one day, to earn enough to purchase one. And, through the kindness of