

IN the ATHENÆUM of last February there appeared an article, entitled "Biblical Knowledge as Part of an Intellectual Outfit." The writer shows more plainly than if he had said it plainly, that he would like to see the Bible used as a text-book in the college course. We are glad to find that he does not stand alone. At Wellesley two lessons a week in the Bible are required throughout the course. Yale and Amherst have this year put the Bible on the list of electives. The American college world seems to be waking up over this question. In *The Old Testament Student* for September there is a leader and a long symposium, by the presidents of ten colleges and the editors of six standard periodicals, on "The desirability and Feasibility of Bible Study in College." We will leave the editors out and give our readers a sentence or two from the letter of each President. The opinions of these men are worth listening to. They know what they are talking about. Their words are not the rant of some visionary novice, but the thoughtful outcome of years of experience in the very heart of college life:—

Pres. Seelye, of *Amherst College*:—"The effort to secure a larger study of the Bible in our Colleges is one of the healthiest signs of the times. I believe that the College which studies it most will be the healthiest and strongest. If other studies have to give way to this, any less thereby occasioned will be more than compensated."

Pres. Robinson, of *Brown University*:—"Some kind of biblical instruction to our College under-graduates I am disposed to think is both advisable and feasible. I would make a required study of it rather than an elective."

Pres. G. D. B. Pepper, *Colby University*:—"There is nothing that I so much desire as to see introduced into our regular college curriculum as a study of the great English Classics, and that not merely for the language and style, but for the valuable aid afforded to many collateral studies. If this be true of the secular writings, surely it must apply with more force to the systematic and critical study of the English Bible."

Pres. Bartlett, of *Dartmouth College*:—"I regard the study of the English Bible and related topics in college as exceedingly desirable and entirely feasible. For ten years I have conducted such an exercise with the Senior class in this institution on each Monday morning, and similar arrangements are now made for the other classes respectively."

Pres. Anderson, of *Denison University*:—"Next year, by a special vote of the trustees, at their late annual meeting, I am to conduct a class in the English Bible, in which the study is to be compulsory, and is to include all the students in the University. In mapping out a course of study in 'The Shephardson College for Women,' that has just been organized here, I put the study of the Bible—making it compulsory—into every term of the collegiate course and the trustees of the

College adopted it with expressions of the most hearty approval. Is it not more important to trace God's providence in connection with the people to whom he gave his written law than in connection with the Greeks and Romans?"

Pres. Knox, of *Lafayette College*:—"In my judgement the study of the English Bible is an essential part of any well ordered College curriculum. The experience of Lafayette proves the introduction of the Bible into the regular College curriculum both advisable and feasible. The intellectual results are good and only good, and the moral are such as cannot be stated in words."

Pres. Fairchild, of *Oberlin College*:—"A weekly lesson in the English Bible for every class has been a part of the required course in Oberlin College through all its history. The time seems to be propitious for more effective work in this direction."

Pres. McCosh, of *Princeton College*:—"I may state that in this college every student is under bible instruction once a week."

Pres. Sims, of *Syracuse University*:—"I am well convinced that the English Bible should have a place in our college courses of study."

Pres. Scovel, of *The University of Wooster*:—"I confess to nothing short of enthusiasm in favor of the study of the English Bible in the curriculum of every college. Success to your efforts to have the Bible given again the place in higher education from which its displacement is a shame to our common Protestantism, and has proved a harm to our national life."

Acadia has no required course in the study of the English Bible. No objection to its introduction has ever been urged loud enough for us to hear it. Yet a strong prejudice against such a course does exist, though it sleeps for lack of disturbance. We call the objection a prejudice because it is weak, a mere assumption that cannot stand a critical examination. The one tacit reason for the proscription of the Bible seems to be the fact of its claim to divine inspiration. This is no objection at all. The question is: Is the Bible as worthy of study as any work now used in the prescribed course? The answer is that apart from the question of its inspiration the Bible just, solely on account of *what is in it*, is more worthy of man's careful, patient, earnest study than any other book on the face of the earth. Why then should it be given a back seat out-doors? What if its study in a few circles should be unpopular? So is the study of mathematics. What if a few men should stay away? Let them stay. Acadia will not be to blame if she scares them away by doing right. They need not be frightened any way. The Bible would not hurt them if it is divinely inspired. Acadia was designed and reared by those who loved the Bible, and her chief cornerstone to-day is the word of God. Take that away and she will sink.