

own people has for every man who has been initiated a peculiar charm. We do not forget those distant peoples to whom our respected brethren have gone as missionaries, and we do not forget that it is an important part of our duty to serve them, but the limits of our subject will make it necessary to confine ourselves just now to the people of our own provinces.

And as for even the people of Ontario and Quebec there is time for the mention of only a few reasons why they need the Bible. To those we now invite your attention.

(a). *They need it to give interest to life.* The monotony of a treadmill was clearly never intended for men to whom God has given the delicate power of thought. That this is true is evident from the revenge that Nature takes upon those whose life has been reduced to a mere mechanical round of duty. In the grinding of the mill of life many men in both high and low circles have been so beaten down that they have lost all ambition and all interest. There are two dangers that threaten this class. They are either driven to the mechanical means of arousing temporary and artificial interest by the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, or else they plod along in dreary monotony until the reason has gone—their life has been starved.

To stem this tide the Bible offers the greatest facilities, for once men and women can secure a real interest in it, the dull monotony will be gone. The books bound in the Divine Library can become intensely fascinating. Some parts have the directness and power and simplicity of Homer, and afford the best of schools for the training of the imagination; some parts have all the genial breadth of Herodotus in the stories they have to tell; others have the exalted self-restraint of Thucydides, and his suppressed pathos in laying bare the causes of the nation's failure; still others have the tragic sombreness of Æschylus, or the dignified serenity of Sophocles in the midst of seeming disaster; and some again have the light grace of Horace in delineating the emotions and aspirations of the individual heart. All these qualities are found in the Bible, but the weaknesses of the Classic Literature are left out.

And the remarkable feature about it all is that the intense earnestness and reality of these Writings make the Book not the exclusive prize of scholars, but the heritage and solace of the