

stock for those officiating in the sacrificial services. Every garment was sacredly prescribed as to color, as well as to form, and there was the most scrupulous care taken that these requirements should be conformed to. One priest might not officiate regularly enough to be charged with the duty of seeing that the garments he was to use should all be of the proper order, and it became necessary to have an officer to take full charge of the vestments and keep them. In like manner there is a wardrobe keeper in great cathedrals in Europe and elsewhere, where the writer has seen garments which cost, it is said, a thousand dollars each and in some cases vastly more. These are often a result of investment by the individual priest, who bequeaths them to the cathedral in which he has served.

The keeper of the wardrobe of the priests of the temple was a distinct office among the Phœnician Baal worshipers, and the supply of garments extended to the worshipers. This is not to be understood to mean all the great company of worshipers, but those officiating in the ceremonies. The temple of Baal was very large, and was of the best and most magnificent architecture Tyrian skill could produce under Ahab. This had a great vestry with a large stock of robes in charge of the "keeper of the wardrobe." There is some doubt as to the extent to which the worshipers, as well as those officiating in the offerings, were supplied from this wardrobe, but if the general congregation received distinctive dress, it may have been only some badge or emblem to be worn on the ordinary dress.

By Way of Illustration.

BY JESSIE M. BINGHAM.

The book of the law. It was the law of the Lord that changed nomadic Jewish tribes, roaming the deserts, pitching their tents wherever there was pasturage, into a united and powerful nation, dwelling in habitations, ruled over by prosperous kings. A tumultuous mob of slaves, escaping from bondage, were transformed into a great nation.

An awakened conscience. One evening on my way to prayer meeting I met a young student whom I knew to be an unbeliever. I said, "Come to the meeting with me to-night."

He replied, "I haven't time. I am preparing for examination."

"Have you thought about preparation for that other examination," I said, "'Prepare to meet thy God?'"

That single bit of Scripture aroused his con-

science and brought him to the prayer meeting and to Christ.—*A. C. Dixon.*

The Bible in national life. The historian Green gives a strong testimony to the effect of the printed Bible in Elizabeth's reign. He says: "No greater change ever passed over a nation than passed over England during the years which parted the middle of the reign of Elizabeth from the meeting of the Long Parliament. England became the people of a book, and that book was the Bible. Its literary and social effects were great, but far greater was the effect of the Bible on the character of the people at large. A new conception of life—a new moral and religious impulse spread through every class."

America and the Bible. It is historically true that America was born of the Bible; from it came, in the sixteenth century, the strongest impulses which colonized these shores.—*Dr. J. H. Barrow.*

"That book, sir," said Andrew Jackson, pointing to the family Bible upon the table, "that book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests."

Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influences of this book we are indebted for all progress in civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.—*U. S. Grant.*

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

BY MRS. J. H. KNOWLES.

On the fly leaf of a little Bible with which I have long been familiar these words are written: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." The book was given to a boy in his teens, leaving home for school. It looks now as every Bible which has been in one's possession for years should look—not as though it had been hidden away in some forgotten place like the book Hilkiah found in the temple; but its leaves are worn as if they had been frequently turned, and are full of pencil marks, showing that their words have been carefully noted. The school days, college life, and busy working years of the owner of this Bible have proved to all who knew him that he did take heed to his ways according to the word. Your life will never be a failure if the Bible is your daily counselor. "When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou wakest, it shall talk with thee; for the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light, and the reproofs of instruction are the way of life."