

that is divine in its origin. The case stands thus—the Bible conveys to us the thoughts of God, but these have reached us through the medium of our brother-man. “Holy men of old” spoke the words, though they “spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” The thoughts therefore have come to us through a human channel, and were once thoughts bounding and billowing in the hearts of men like ourselves. The Bible, therefore, we might truly say, is at once *divine* and *human*. The breath of inspiration came from the throne of God—the Spirit of truth guided the writers into all truth; and yet the ideas, feelings, hopes and fears—experiences and aspirations which the book expresses, were first, in the strictest sense, their own thoughts and emotions, before they gave them such impressive utterance. Hence the human charm that is in the Bible. It is a poor, suffering, tempted brother—sometimes soaring heavenward on the wings of faith and love, and again with the black billows of despair rolling over him; it is one who has felt as we feel, and wept and suffered as ourselves, who, in its pages, tells us his own experiences and struggles, and points out to us the path by which he gained peace and rose triumphant to repose on the bosom of his God. It is David *himself*, who in that touching fifty-first psalm flings his broken spirit upon his God, sobbing from the depths of a repentant heart. The Bible is thus to us a great record of human feelings and endeavours—of woes through which the soul of man has passed in its struggles with guilt and sin—of its joys when reconciled and restored to the divine favour. And it is this very circumstance that so endears the book to our hearts, and has won its way to our affections. Its writers are our loving and sympathising brothers, with human hearts beating in their bosoms—with genuine smiles and tears chasing each other over their kind, genial faces; and they tell us honestly how they thought and acted in life’s battle, that they may cheer and guide us in our own toilsome and dangerous pilgrimage. They are truly “moved by the Holy Ghost”; and yet their words find a response in our own hearts, because they come from the hearts of those who wrote. Only genuine and true words ever do move deeply the soul of man. What a beautiful instance have we here of divine wisdom in selecting this mode of instructing and guiding us. The book is fitted to touch our hearts because