

portance of saving your souls, and I say, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul," why, you would say,

"Of course, Father, it is nothing at all."

The salvation of the soul comes before everything; it is the most important business and work we have here on earth. Then you say to me:

"Father, what must I do to save my soul?"

I should answer you like the Protestant preacher, and say:

"You must read the Bible. My child, you must understand the Bible."

"All right, Father, and where can I get the Bible?"

"You can get one in the basement of the church."

"And what is the cost of it, Father?"

"Eight thousand dollars!"

"Oh, the Lord save us! Eight thousand dollars?"

"Yes, my child. Is not your soul worth that?"

"Oh, yes, Father; it is worth hundreds of times more than that. But what shall I do if I haven't a Bible, and haven't the money to buy one?"

"Well," as the Protestant minister would say, "then you can't get to heaven."

"Then I guess I'll have to stay outside of it; for I haven't any eight thousand dollars to buy a Bible, and I never expect to have it." (Laughter.)

My dear people, you see at once how unreasonable it is to say that the Bible is to be the guide and instructor of man, when the Bible, for more than fourteen hundred years, had not been in the hands of the people. Before the art of printing was invented, not, perhaps, one in ten thousand could procure himself a Bible. And how could that be the guide and teacher of man, when it was not possible for the people to get such a teacher? But let us suppose