

them. The exercise of following their meaning affords no little pleasure.

Few books furnish a richer intellectual feast than the Bible. Indeed, looking at it merely as a literary production, we know no book that contains so many gems in such small compass. Its purity of style, its variety of subjects, its splendid poetry, its sublime conceptions, its wise aphorisms and searching proverbs, cannot fail to enlarge the sympathies and refine the taste. The man who honours and loves his Bible cannot be uncultivated. It is the best gentleman's *rade mecum* in the world. No book discloses so much of the human heart. Its proverbs, history and biography are a perfect encyclopædia of worldly wisdom. No other book gives such comprehensive views of God's providence—making Him watch the falling sparrows, and control the movements of distant suns and systems. He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth. It clearly defines our duties to ourselves, our neighbors and our God. It strengthens our wills, purifies the conscience and sanctifies the affections. It discloses to us the only perfect man that ever lived—the only infallible teacher, the only faultless example, the only physician of souls. It is there, and there only, that we behold the Lamb of God mirrored who taketh away the sin of the world. It is there we hear the gospel message that authoritatively proclaims pardon to the penitent, answers to the prayerful, comfort to the troubled, support to the tried, sight to the blind, guidance to the perplexed, strength to the weak, life to the dying, and salvation to the lost. This blessed book, used as we have indicated, will wipe away the tears of sorrow; it will furnish cheques of infinite value on the bank of heaven; it will sweeten the bitter waters of life; it will shed the light of heaven over the darkest spots of our earthly pilgrimage; it will supply armour for every battle, and balm for every wound; it will direct us through life, support us in trouble, cheer us in death, and guide us to glory. No other book can benefit us in the same way, or to the same purpose.

## PRESBYTERIANISM IN ENGLAND.

The progress of Presbyterianism in England is encouraging in a very high degree. Counting all the branches of the "family" the total of churches approaches 1200. The growth of the body within the past twenty years has been more rapid than at any period since the Westminster Assembly met in 1643—and more rapid than the growth of any other denomination in England. We cannot recall without regret the splendid vantage ground occupied by Presbyterianism in the British Isles two hundred and fifty years ago. But that is past; and all that remains is to make the most of passing opportunities. And we believe that our brethren in England are doing their best, and succeeding admirably. In most of the large towns, in all the great centres of population, the old blue banner is again unfurled. In London, especially, and its suburban districts, the increase has been really wonderful. In places where, a few years ago, Presbyterianism was utterly unknown, the church of that denomination is now one of the most conspicuous objects, and among the best attended places of worship in the district. You can scarcely open any of the London religious newspapers without seeing accounts either of the opening of some new Presbyterian Church, or the ordination or induction of the some new Presbyterian minister. The chief characteristics of the English Presbyterian Church are its activity and zeal. The London ministers and elders, especially, are most untiring in their efforts for the dissemination of Gospel truth among the masses of the people. The present Moderator of the English Synod, Mr. Davidson, of River Terrace Church, is one of the hardest working and devoted ministers in London. He has been eminently successful in his evangelistic efforts among the hitherto neglected poor of the Islington District of the city. For some years he has rented the large Agricultural Hall, and conducted special afternoon and evening services for the benefit of the non-church attending population of the neighborhood. In this work he has been signally successful. God has honoured and owned his labors for the