

and woe, and the purposes of God's love towards us wayward, wandering prodigals. Can we wonder that a child of God should treasure the Book that his Father has given, and in which he feels the throbbing of that Father's heart? Can we wonder that men have reckoned the Bible dearer than life itself, and so have given their fortunes and their lives that they might share its story with their fellows?

And this book throws a flood of light on the future; this Book, and no other. Should we study the history of England alone, we might well be bewildered by the abundance of literature bearing on the subject, but no such embarrassment confronts us when we search into the hereafter. Commentaries without number there may be, but all referring back to the inspired record. Curious speculations of religious and irreligious inquiry have been written, but giving no "certain sound," nor rising above the level of suppositions. The Bible is alone and unique, and the Book that lifts the veil from the future reveals the heart of God that purposes to bring His ransomed people to His home of love.

There is nothing commonplace where God is concerned, and while our hands may toil at trivial duties our thoughts may delight in the greatness of the divine counsels; and, though our circumstances may be those of earth's dreariest poverty, our souls may dwell amid the wealth and fullness of the world to come.

Child of God and of the light!
Heir of the future! Look well at

the title-deeds of your inheritance! Survey the greatness of the promised land! "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces." And thus, seeing the unseen, and having the mind set upon things above will the glow of heaven's interests colour the earthly pathway to its end.

And yet the Bible, too, is historic. Its record might be intitled "God in history," and in that lies its interest and uniqueness. God is behind the scenes where man's busy will is working, and His voice repeating by sage and prophet, yes, and by the Son Himself, "I would . . . but ye would not!"

There is no personal interest about a grammar or a dictionary, such as history or biography may excite.—Literature that speaks of persons comes closer home to us than that which deals with things or thoughts. it has been said that the noblest study of mankind is man, but we would reserve that superlative for a nobler still. "Man know thyself!" may be a needed exhortation, but greater yet must be the knowledge of God; and while our fellows often use their best endeavours to hide their true characters, how deeply it interests us to find that God through all the centuries past, has laboured to make Himself known, and has crowned the work of the perfect revelation of Himself in Christ. To know the truth about some men might be a cruel undecieving, for often ignorance is bliss, but to know God is to know love, and the knowledge of the Father and the Son is life eternal.