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THE REVISED NEW TESTAMENT.

The Bible is a wonderful book. It is the oldest book in the world; yet it is the freshest. It is the most necessary and valuable book in the world; yet it is the cheapest. It is the most profound book in the world; yet it is the simplest. It is a book in immeasurable advance of the brightest discoveries of the learned; yet it is the book for the masses. It is the most hated book in the world; and yet it is the most influential and popular.

Many sceptical critics, and their unthinking followers have taken up the position, that the Bible is lagging behind in the march of human progress,—that it is beginning to lose its hold on the human mind, and that there is a general yearning for something fresher, livelier, and more stimulating. Even if that were the case, it would not make against the character of the Bible, any more than a sickman's disrelish for a particular article of food would be indicative of its unwholesomeness. A honey comb is not less sweet and nutritious because a "full soul" may loathe it. The Revelation of God to man is not less precious and desirable, because man, in the depravity of his heart, may undervalue it. It is not a fact, however, that the Bible is beginning to take a "lower room" in human estimation. Of this we have indisputable evidence in the fact that on one day,—the 20th of May last—*two and a quarter million* copies of the Revised New Testament were purchased in England and America. Can the annals of literature furnish an example of such intense and general eagerness to obtain possession of any other book? Can such an unparalleled demand for the New Revision be accounted for by ascribing it to mere curiosity? Admitting that curiosity has much to do with it, the question still comes up—Why such unexampled curiosity in this case? Why such an intense and general inquisitiveness in regard to the work which has been brought to completion? The only satisfactory solution of the problem will be found in the fact that, notwithstanding all the hostile criticism of those who are "wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own conceits," the Bible is still, as its name imports, *the Book*. It still retains its hold upon the minds, if not the hearts of men, such as no other book ever had, or can have, to the end of time.

In looking into the New Revision now before the public, it is most pleasing to note, that not one vital doctrine of the evangelical faith has been displaced or weakened. The most unreserved adoption of it would not require the slightest change in any doctrinal proposition or any moral precept. The grand old Version of 1611, has been subjected to the most searching investigation of the noblest minds in Britain and America, and yet the result has only been the wiping away of some specks of dust from the diamond, making it only more clear and transparent.