

greatly relieved. The people of Shantung are therefore strongly opposed to the efforts to confine the river to its old channel, and they are doing what they can to obstruct the work of the engineers. It is said that hundreds of tons of millet stocks and thousands of tons of hemp, designed to aid in closing the breach in the river-banks, have been set on fire and utterly destroyed.

It is also reported that as yet no considerable portion of the waters of the Yellow River have found an outlet into the sea. The imperial commissioner estimates the number of persons drowned as over 100,000, and that, aside from those who had fled to other districts, the number of destitute is about 1,800,000."

### BIBLE STUDY.

"Hazel" in the *Canada Presbyterian* says:—"Do you wonder dear reader, why you are not more Christ-like and sanctified? How much time each day do you devote to Bible Study? Sanctification comes through a knowledge of the truth (John xvii. 17).

We can only know God's will searching His word; it quickens (Psalm cxix. 50); it is a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path"; we are to hide it in our hearts (Psalm cxix. ii): to search it daily (Acts xvii. 11). Mark the command is *search* not read a verse here and there for duty's sake, and have no intelligent conception of the truth after the perusal. In order to communicate to others, we must be taught ourselves (Galatians vi. 6).

We are to hold fast the faithful word, that by sound doctrine we may be able to convince those who are opposed to it (Titus i. 9). Through the indwelling of the Word we attain wisdom (Colossians iii. 6); and our hymns of praise and rejoicing are wafted up to Him who has filled our hearts with grace.

In John xiv. 26 we find "The Spirit will bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever He hath said unto us." We cannot recall what we have never heard:

When our Lord was made man, He became dependent on the Word of God: He was taught it by His mother and the teachers of Nazareth during His years of preparation; and we know that during His ministry He was constantly mystifying and silencing His accusers through the use of the quick and powerful sword of the Spirit (Hebrews iv. 12).

Do not take your thoughts of God's purpose concerning you from the experience of Christians, but from the law and the testimony. Study it faithfully; have your heart full of it. Believe it all, for all Scripture is profitable.

Like a star of the morning in its beauty,  
Like a sun is the Bible to my soul:  
Shining clear on the way of love and duty,  
As I hasten on my journey to the goal."

### THE HIGHER CLASSES IN JAPAN.

Rev. R. B. Grinnan, of Kochi, Japan, in a letter to the *Christian Observer* says of the higher classes in Japan:

That same class of men are being led astray more and more by the introduction of Western worldly pleasures. In the open ports where foreigners are, the round dance and the ball room are all the fashion among the Japanese. They say we are taking foreign civilization and we must have its pleasures, no matter what they cost. Consequently, balls with round dancing are becoming common affairs. This, also, leads on to a great deal of drinking. They say, Why, a man who will not drink a lot of wine, or dance in a ball room, or bet on a horse race, or do other things that are unmentionable, is behind the times; he does not keep up with the progress of civilization. Thus, thousands are rushing madly into a wild, fast living, with that idea that it is civilization.

Again a large number of immoral foreigners but help on this same idea by abusing missionaries and their teachings. These men, some of whom are leaders in society, are often found living in such a state as would not be tolerated by decent society at home, but in this country it makes no difference so far as worldlings go. Such men as these are a great stumbling block to the Japanese, as they fall in with just what they desire.

The late Archbishop Bourget, of Montreal, cursed the ground down six feet deep where he was obliged, by the decision of the Privy Council, to place the body of Guibord, the printer, and then with pious ceremony committed the whole cemetery to the benign care of the Virgin Mary. Out of the same mouth proceeded cursing and blessing."