

PREFACE.

THE title of this new book of Bible Readings, **Gold from Ophir**, is, as the reader will observe, a Scriptural one. It struck me as being the most appropriate and suggestive one that came to my mind. Ophir, it is said, was a region from which the Hebrews in the time of Solomon obtained Gold. The gold was proverbial for its fineness, so that "gold of Ophir" is several times mentioned as *fine gold*, Ps. 45 : 10 : Job 28 : 16 ; Isa. 13 : 12 ; 1 Chron. 29 : 4.

What a golden mine of truth is the precious Word of God ! What inexhaustible stores of wealth lie enfolded within its bosom ! Blessed thought, too, that it contains no dross, quartz, or earth, from which it must needs be separated. The Book from the beginning to the ending is composed of multitudinous nuggets of the purest gold. And yet it requires patient, prayerful digging in order to obtain the treasure. For near a score of years I have been digging in this mine, and have found it a most pleasurable and profitable task.

While engaged in evangelistic work it occurred to me that a book of Bible Readings could be arranged on a more practical basis than any I had yet seen, with due regard to "the right dividing of the word of truth." How far I have succeeded, the reader must judge. Moreover, in this busy age, when there is such a "running to and fro," and so little time to spend in laborious searching of the Scriptures, I felt assured it would be a good and helpful thing to put in proper order the *four fundamental and leading facts of the Bible, viz. : Ruin, Redemption, Regeneration and Resurrection*, hoping that this effort for God's glory might be permitted to be a help to all those who feel called to labor for the salvation of the lost. Yet, let every one who scans its pages remember that "truth second-hand" is of no real value unless it be first wrought into the soul by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost.

Many of the "nuggets of gold" found in this volume have been gathered by other hands than mine. Due credit is therefore given.

The "Suggestive Thoughts and Unfoldings" have been gleaned and culled from the writings of the clearest and purest authors of Gospel literature. They are given merely to serve as a stimulus to thought.