

able certainty very much more. And it is hoped that even yet some of the remaining portions may be discovered and saved.—*Church Herald*.

WHY NOT?

BY REV. N. D. WILLIAMSON.

Taking a seat in a railroad car at Pittsburg, the other day, my eye was soon attracted by an ornate little rack, with an inscription on it in raised letters, fastened on the end of the saloon, near the water-cooler. My first thought was that the conductor had chosen a strange place for his bills and memoranda. But looking more closely, I read:

"BIBLE.

REPLACE IN THIS RACK."

Going forward to discover who was the doer of this good work for the Master, I read on the inside of the cover of a Bible of convenient size and print, "Presented to the Pittsburg and Cleveland Railway Company by the Cleveland Bible Society, 1871." As I opened the sacred pages, the Book seemed intent on first telling its own story, for it opened determinately to the place where *holiness unto the Lord* challenged attention.

Why not? was the first and most natural inquiry that rose in my mind. If this inscription which was first place on the breast-plate of the Jewish high priest, is to be, according to prophesy, "upon the bells of the horses," why not place it on our swiftest mode of travel?

As my soul was refreshed with further draughts of the cooling waters from the fountain of eternal life, and received a blessed and much-needed impulse toward heavenly things, I blessed God for this work of the Cleveland Bible Society.

Afterward, having occasion to go into another car of the same train, in which the Bible had the presentation inscription on the outside of the cover in gilt letters, I was pleased to see one of two young men who had just come on the train, take down the Bible, and after a pleasant remark from his friend, read in it attentively for some time.

Whether the Cleveland Bible Society originated this plan, and whether it has pursued it extensively, I have no means of knowing. But this blessed evidence and result of its activity has caused me to revolve the query frequently, Why not?

Why cannot all the local Bible societies that have the opportunity, with the parent society at their head, carry out this idea of the Cleveland Bible Society in all the passenger cars of the country? Donations of money for the racks which would need to correspond in plainness or elegance with the internal finish of the cars, would doubtless be gladly given by many christians.

By proper management, through the officers of the American Bible Society and other gentlemen whose good offices can be secured by the local agencies, the assent and approval of the officers and directors of most of the railroad companies could be obtained. The rest of the work, the construction and putting up of appropriate racks, the inscription and presentation of proper Bibles, the supply of new cars, and the re-supply of others that have soiled copies, can easily be arranged.

On the same train, while stopping for dinner, a pleasant-looking gentleman offered for sale little Tract Society books, such as "Come to Jesus," and, in answer to my inquiry, stated that he had been at the work several years. Why could not the Christian Association or tract society of a town where trains usually stop for some time, obtain permission to have their agents supply at cost the passengers who wish such literature?

As the movement to form a National Association to supply railroad trains with good literature failed, could not this mode of doing the work in part be made successful? Why not?