

earth? Why is the song of the lark so melodious, or the smile of love so endearing? If man required only to be fed, then a rude, unadorned plain, where grain might grow and cattle graze, would have been enough. But "man does not live by bread alone" He has keen, deep sympathies, a noble spiritual nature, and an eye for the beautiful; and God has surrounded him with a universe glowing with beauty, in order to expand and gratify these endowments of soul, and lead man to worship the All-Lovely Being whose mind it shadows forth. Now so it is with the Bible; it combines the beautiful with the true, in order that it may speak to man's deepest sympathies, and win him to the path that makes known the way of life everlasting. In this way the Bible has been "made for man"—it is exactly adapted to his nature. We could easily conceive of the Bible having been differently constructed, without any charming history, or enchanting descriptions of old patriarchal manners,—without any story of Joseph, or drama of Job, or sublime psalm lifting the soul to the very gates of heaven. The Bible might have been made a dry treatise on divinity, telling us what we are to believe and do, in order to be saved. But suppose the Bible had been written thus, would men love it so much, or could it have swayed the human heart so powerfully? Would it ever have become the household-book, and bosom friend,—the object of our love as well as of our reverence?—No;—in order to be fitted for its great mission it must address every part of our nature; and therefore we have history, biography, psalm and proverb, gospel and epistle, poetry and prose, all combining to render the Bible the most wonderful and the noblest volume in the world. Here then, in revelation, we see traces of the same hand that formed the beautiful world around us. Both are constructed by the same divine architect.

Another thing was necessary to give the Bible a deep and abiding influence over the mind of man,—it must possess a *human interest*; for wanting this, no book can retain a permanent hold upon our attention. Let the record of our brother's joys and woes be naturally and truthfully written, and we cannot remain indifferent to them. Now it is most striking and instructive to mark how this greatest of all charms, a deep human interest, has been imparted to a book

that i  
conve  
throug  
spoke  
by the  
us thr  
ing an  
Bible,  
human  
God—  
and ye  
aspirat  
sense,  
them s  
that is  
sometim  
and ag  
it is on  
ourselv  
struggl  
peace a  
It is I  
flings hi  
of a rep  
of huma  
the soul  
sin—of  
favour.  
book to  
Its writ  
human h  
and tear  
and they  
battle, th  
and dang  
Holy Gh  
own hear  
wrote,  
the soul  
of divino  
guiding u