

and put it on a new plane, and give it a new, higher and nobler development, is the book that will suit the next generation as well, and all generations that come after it. The Bible is the book for the soul, and God put into it exactly those truths that He knew were calculated to regenerate the soul; and, unless the human heart receives new powers and faculties in future ages, what can regenerate one mind and heart in this age will answer for all coming ages. Unless the soul needs to be made over and given new faculties, you do not want a new Bible, or any annex to the old one. And, therefore, the invitation, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world," will be as full of celestial beauty a thousand years hence as it is to the inquirer after the way of life in this house to-day. And I hope that in this great congregation there is some one to whom the question, "What must I do to be saved?" is the most important of all questions; and as long as this is so, the twenty-third Psalm—that singing angel in the choir of psalms—will be just as sweet in the ears of the last child of God that dies on this earth as it was in the ears of your own dear mother, when, soothed by its strains, she passed from her life of painfulness to her death of peace, into her immortality of joy.

2. I remark, in the second place, that those who reason thus reason sophistically, because they overlook another great distinction. When we say that the canon of Scripture is closed—that not another line will ever be added to the written record—we do not mean that the principles contained in the Bible, as we now have it, do not admit of endless expansion and endless revolution; and, while the Bible is fixed and will never be supplemented, the principles contained in it are admissible of universal and of endless application, and for that reason the Bible will never need to be supplemented. You remember, in one of the books that charm infancy, and that charm old age as well oftentimes, we have a story of Prince Ahmed and the fairy Paribanou. The

fairy one day gave to Prince Ahmed a walnut. He opened the walnut, and in it there was a tent made of materials so elastic that it could be folded up and contained in a walnut-shell, but when opened it could be expanded so as to extend over the palace yard, and, when opened out still further, it covered the king's palace, the courtyard and the whole of the king's army. Precisely so it is with the principles contained in this book. It is a little volume—you may put it in your pocket; and yet the principles can be so expanded as to embrace the world, mankind, and everything in human life. It is with this Bible as it is with nature. No new laws have been given to nature from the beginning. Is not that a very plain proposition, my friends—that in this vast material universe, so complicated and wonderful, not a new law has been made since God produced it out of nothing to what it is? No law has been added, and yet how constantly are men discovering laws that for long ages were hidden from human eyes; and men of science will tell you that there are now many latent forces in nature awaiting the genius of the occasion when they shall be discovered and applied to the use of man. And who can tell how many latent forces there are in revelation awaiting the occasion when, in the providence of God, they shall be discovered and receive their legitimate application? What the world wants is, not a new Bible, or new principles, or new truths, but an appreciation of the old, the recognition of the old, and the legitimate application of the old to the purposes for which they were intended.

To illustrate my meaning exactly: That a force can be generated by the expansion of vapors is a truth that is as old as Christianity; but the application of steam as a motive power is a modern recognition and a modern use of the old power. Gravitation has existed from the beginning; but Newton discovered it and builds on it a splendid science. Now, as Newton's discovery in science, so the discovery of these latent laws in the Bible, and their ap-