

none have shown with equal clearness what is beyond the present, or how we may prepare for future felicity, as the Bible has done.

IX. Influence of the Bible on the Race.—Attempts have been made to show that the Bible is an immoral book, and dangerous to be read—at least by the common people.

If this were so, then Bible-reading people would be the most lawless. Do facts sustain this view? Is the fiendish spirit displayed by Communists, Nihilists, or dynamiters the result of Bible-reading? A scientific gentleman returned to England some time ago and expressed his disgust at the puritanical way in which the Sabbath had been observed on one of the Sandwich Islands that he had visited. But had he visited that land as did Captain Cook and his brave crew, half a century ago or more, he would probably have seen a heated oven; and after being prepared and baked, his body would have been divided among many natives, and to their stomachs he would have gone in morsels, instead of returning to Britain to speak disparagingly of the very agency that had made it possible (as a scientific man he must know) for him to travel safely among that once savage people.

Lieut. Lowry, R.N., of H.M.S. *Espegle*, says, "On every island where the missionaries had laboured we were able to land in peace, roam about at pleasure, and enjoy ourselves in safety; whereas, on islands still unevangelized, the natives were savage, barbarous, and untrustworthy."

Go where the Bible is not known and read, and men are unruly.

But is not the Bible calculated to enslave men? Where is liberty enjoyed to-day? In England, America, Canada.

Yet the circulation of the Bible is greatest among these free people who read that great charter of liberty, in which they find the gospel of goodwill to men.

We may not forget that Magna Charta itself was secured to the British nation by the barons, who had first pledged faithfulness to each other, under the sanction of the oath administered to each of them by the priest at the altar of the Abbey at Bury St. Edmund. And proceeding in inspiration of Christianity, they went to the king and secured his signature at Runnymede.

X. The Power of its Experience.—The man who has tested the power of the Book in his own life says, "What we have felt and seen, with confidence we tell." This is an argument to him, although it may have less force to others. Yet when we consider the testimony of men generally to the value of revelation, it becomes of great value on the side of the Bible.

Let us approach the dying Christian and ask, "Has the word of God been of any service to you?" And, with glad acclaim, he replies, "Everything of good I have enjoyed, and all I now consider and hold most precious is of God and through His blessed Book." He may mourn at not having loved and searched it more, but

never a dying Christian has yet lamented having believed in the Bible as a revelation from the Almighty.

And how tells the testimony of men who have not believed on this argument? Never a man of them has passed away in neglect of God and His word whose death has been such as to lead you to say, "Let me die the death of the unbeliever, and let my last end be like his."

In life and in death, by saint and sinner, we learn the same precious lesson from experience, that there is no book like the Bible.

Then let us, as Sabbath School workers, labor more and more to teach this word to those who wait upon our ministry; and for our own comfort and stay, let us bind that book to our hearts and say:

"Holy Bible, Book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine."

PART II. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT—THE TEACHER.

I. Should be a Christian (1) in belief, (2) in experience, (3) in life. Still there may be circumstances which justify the employment of a person who has not yet experienced religion. Yet only he who truly loves Christ can fully reveal Him to others.

II. A Church member, for this step is an open profession of faith in Christ.

1. He should be a loyal member. Some church members are ever finding fault with their church, minister, and brethren; others sustain in every possible manner all interests of the church. A teacher should be of the latter class.

2. He should be a working member. Some talk much and do little. Oh, that all teachers would work as well as talk!

III. A Bible Student.

1. Having himself a teachable spirit, so that when he sits before the Word it may be to know what the Spirit here would teach him.

2. Diligent; thoughtfully reading and studying, not as men read the newspaper.

3. Thorough, in spirit of prayer and purpose to get the truth, cost what it may.

IV. A Friend; in sympathy coming into living contact with souls, and full of helpfulness towards those who listen to his instructions.

V. Must have knowledge.—It is said that one needs to know one hundred things to teach one well.

VI. Needs tact, or ability to do and say the best thing in the best manner. This ability is largely a gift, yet much may be done by developing the talent we have.

VII. Punctual.—Too much importance can hardly be attached to this qualification. Want of it gives endless trouble to the Superintendent and fosters indifference in the class.

A. A.

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