

wider love for men and a grander view of the loving-kindness of the Almighty.

Read the life and times of the commentators on the Bible; and, even before you become acquainted with their comments, you may be able to predict much of what they will say. The commentator whose early life has been pervaded by high monarchical and ecclesiastical principles will, in his interpretation of the Bible, show his appreciation of the authoritative, the external, the governmental. The democratic commentator who has thoroughly emancipated himself from all that leans toward the "divine right" of kings, will give prominence to the subjective and the rational. He who hovers between early monarchical and ecclesiastical teaching and new convictions of the rights of men will often seem to be inconsistent, now leaning to the side of external authority, and now to the side of the internal and individual. Even our "authorized translation" of the Bible bears innumerable traces of the politics and theology of the age in which it was written, and is doing much to spread that confusion of hypothesis and fact that prejudices the minds of scientific men against the popular Christianity. For the comprehension of any subject, a corresponding training is needed. He who has never heard of Hannibal cannot properly interpret allusions to Cannae or Capua. He who knows nothing of a sense of pardon and acceptance with God is a poor biographer of Wesley. He who knows nothing of geology is not fit to interpret the first chapter of Genesis. He who does not understand the niceties of Greek constructions should be modest in his assertions of the meaning of the New Testament. Politics, philosophy, and the ever multiplying sciences, furnish us with many of the "major premises" which, with "minors" given by the Bible, lead to our conclusions; and, if a fallacy lies concealed in the "major," our conclusions as to what the truth is will surely be astray.

Blame not the Bible, then, for faults that lie within ourselves. Lay not at the door of Christianity evils whose parents have been Christians. Say not that the Truth is an *ignis fatuus* that no man can ever reach. Rather say that, high up upon the distant mountain's brow, there stands the glittering form of the imperishable and unchanging TRUE! Its glistening is seen from afar; and the distant hosts of men are trooping from all ages and all