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the safeguard in life's stern battle ; the guide to "glory,  
honour and immortality ;" man's book as well as God's.

We may and we should read the Bible *intellectually*—for  
mental improvement and gratification. If God has sprinkled  
its pages with so many beauties, it was not surely without  
design on his part ; and it cannot be without loss on our part,  
if we remain insensible to these. They have been placed  
there for our advantage, and we should bring our mind into  
contact with them. It is lawful and profitable to take up the  
Bible, not only for devotional purposes, but as a means  
of quickening the imagination, gratifying the taste and  
informing the intellect. Its author evidently meant it for  
such purposes. We may come then, when a leisure hour  
arrives, and fill our minds with Isaiah's "rapt prophetic  
fire"—or converse with Job's philosophic grandeur in that  
oldest and best of poems—or listen to the cheerful voice of  
Peter—the nervous logic of Paul, or the homely, practical  
reasoning of James. Or again, with the aid of an intelligent  
commentator, of maps and chronology, we may explore its  
histories, follow its narratives, or dive into its geography.  
Thus we should have a noble intellectual exercise ; and at  
the same time, obtain a clearer understanding of God's book,  
and deepen our love and respect for the sacred volume.  
Thus we should bind it to our hearts by new ties. And this  
would lead us, we might hope, to something far higher and  
better—to love the moral beauty and holiness of the Bible,  
and to have our souls quickening into divine life by its  
truths.

This intellectual reading of the Bible, however, should be  
regarded only as subservient to a higher aim. All will be  
in vain if it do not make us savingly acquainted with Jesus  
as the Saviour. It is not enough to admire its beauties ; we  
must seek to have our souls sanctified and saved by means of  
its teachings. We must therefore read it on our knees—with  
prayer for the Spirit's guidance, and with a high spiritual  
purpose.

We conclude with the words of one\* whose intellect, taste  
and piety have done so much in commending the Bible to  
the cultivated intelligence of the age. "There is loveliness  
even in its letter ; but there is life for our souls in its divine

\* Rev. Dr. J. Hamilton.