

strengthening the tempted—encouraging the penitent—calming the troubled spirit—and smoothing the pillow of death. Can such a book be the offspring of human genius? Does not the vastness of its effects demonstrate the excellency of the power to be of God?"

Popery on the other hand takes away the Bible from the people, condemns its circulation, and societies having that object in view. Since it was written for our learning, this lamp of life should not be withheld from benighted men. To men in the several stages of life its truths are adapted: it smiles on infancy, it guides the young, it counsels the middle aged, it animates the old; it intreats with the urgency of a friend, its voice is the voice of love. A pure stream has flowed from it through all ages, nor must we dare to turn it aside from gladdening the nations. The objects for which the Scriptures were written, and the persons addressed in the pages of truth, are to be kept in view, that we may learn for whom the lessons are meant. Here we believe the mighty God, the Lord hath spoken. O earth, earth, earth, hear ye the word of the Lord. That mighty voice comprehends within its sweep the first light-producing words, to the reverberations of the judgment trumpet; its range is the circle of eternity—from everlasting when the delights of Wisdom were with the sons of men—to everlasting when the ransomed millions shall dwell amid the unwithering flowers of the celestial land. The Divine Author of the Bible shall magnify all his ways and works. What was written aforetime was written for our learning, consequently, the great source of instruction on divine things is to lie open for perusal. Let us mark, learn, and inwardly digest the truth. Where Bible truth is unknown, men have changed the glory of God into an image made after corruptible man, and to birds and four footed beasts and creeping things. Unaided wisdom has not solved the doubts and driven away the fears of man. Guilt accumulates and condemns. Thus we are shut up to the discoveries of grace. The light of Scripture dawns in beauty, it brings healing to sin-sick souls, it bears in its bosom the calm serenity of peace with God, and points with the finger of hope to mansions of glory. Obliterated truths are re-written in nobler characters, murmurings swell into thunders, while new and glorious harmonies fall on the ear and sooth the heart. Christ is revealed, all other truths are viewed as pointing to this centre, they are satellites to this Sun,—roads terminating in this capital. The glorious plan of salvation is the special burden of the book of God. Written for our learning it covers a wide and extensive field, yet do its various parts serve the great end. Every passage has its own place; as the stones of a building erected with skill. In the Word there are histories, examples, types, genealogies, doctrines, laws, promises, prophecies, and devotional experience,—“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clear, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is a great reward.”