

to me more than twenty years ago, by that man of God, who at that time presided over the clergy of the Church of England, Archbishop Sumner, at my consecration as a bishop. These words were addressed to me: "Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach or maintain nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the same?" Again, "will you, then, faithfully exercise yourself in the same Holy Scriptures, and call upon God by prayer, for the true understanding of the same; so as you may be able by them to teach and exhort with wholesome doctrine, and to withstand and convince the gainsayers?" The form directs that then the archbishop shall place in the hands of the bishop to be consecrated the Bible, saying: "Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men. Take heed unto thyself and to doctrine." And, as all of us probably know, words similar to these are addressed to every candidate for ordination, whether as deacon or as priest, in the Church of which I am the minister; and, thank God! not in that church only, but in every Protestant Church in this land, that which is placed in the hands of the minister is this Holy Book, which we are bound together here to-day in this society to disseminate throughout the world. The Church of which I have the honour to be a minister takes care that this Holy Book shall, from beginning to end, be read in the course of every year in every congregation of the Church of England in this kingdom. There is nothing left to the caprice of individual ministers as to what portion of the Word of God they will bring prominently forward, and what part they will conceal. The Book, the whole Book, and nothing but the Book, is that which we are bound to bring before our people. I think, therefore, I have an encouragement here in the very words which were addressed to me at my ordination, and subsequently at my consecration—I have an encouragement in having joined this great society, now some thirty-four years ago; and I have encouragement also in doing that which, perhaps, I ought to have done before, but which I was convinced this year I ought to do in addressing the clergy of my diocese, and urging all the young men who were rising to a sense of their responsibilities as ministers of our Church to become members of this Society. My lord, it is a great and marvellous work in which this Society is engaged. It has great discouragements, but it has also great helps. There is one thing which has often struck me ever since I heard it insisted upon from the pulpit of the University Church at Oxford, by the honoured Provost of Oriel, now some thirty or forty years ago—that there is nothing more marvellous than this, that in profession, at least, whatever may be the case in practice, there is no man calling himself a Christian who does not acknowledge the supremacy of the written Word of God. Even those who say that Book has a good deal in it that is dangerous still do not deny that it is the Word of God. Even those who would push it into a corner, or conceal it in some language not "understood of the people," are still forced by the conditions of the case to acknowledge that it is the Word of God. \* \* \* I think the Book may be trusted to speak for itself. It is not as if these truths were confined to this sentence or that; they breathe through it from one end to the other, and the only intelligible means of preventing the doctrines of the Bible from finding their way into men's hearts is to say that you will destroy the Book altogether, and that there is not a word of truth in it from beginning to end. Some alarm has been felt by uninstructed people because a right reverend brother of mine here present, and a number of other persons are engaged in revising the translation of these Scriptures. I remember a very good person saying to me, "So you are going to have a new Bible?" I remember also that in the days of Richard Bentley, when he