

throughout the literature of all civilized nations, that the greatest potentate on earth, or all its potentates combined, might as well try to blot the sun out of the heavens, as to extinguish that Word which "is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." But it was very different in ancient times. The last book of the Bible was written nearly 1300 years and the first book of the Bible nearly 3000 years before the invention of printing. And when you think how during these many centuries horde after horde of heathen barbarians swept like a destroying blight over the lands where the Scriptures had a home;—when you think that all the great libraries of the ancient world, those, for example, at Alexandria, Constantinople, Athens and Rome, were destroyed by fire;—when you think that two systematic attempts were made by tyrant kings to exterminate the Scriptures by burning every copy in existence: the one by Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria, after the Canon of the Old Testament was complete, and the other by Diocletian, Emperor of Rome, after the entire Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments were in the hands of the faithful few who then constituted the Christian Church—when you think of all these and many other dangers against which the precious Word had to be guarded, you see that it is indeed a wonderful thing that these Scriptures have been preserved and handed down to us in their integrity. Antiochus Epiphanes and Diocletian have long ago gone down to dishonoured graves, and the dust of those Barbarian hordes now mingles with the common clay and with the embers