

a daily paper in Chicago the morning after published the whole New Testament as revised.

The multiplication of copies, even now, is astonishing. The American and British Bible Societies with their translators, agents and societies, publish in various languages copies of this holy Book, the presses being busy year in and year out. It is a text-book for all Sunday Schools. The International Bible Lessons are used throughout the world. The Book is the basis of all Christian preaching. Its texts shine every Sabbath day in the pulpits of the civilized world. The Book is final authority for all creeds, that may be truly called Christian creeds. The literature based upon it and written by ablest minds is simply unlimited.

It has become more than ever a text-book in denominational and nondenominational colleges. A multitude of people recognize it as a divine revelation, and really and truly believe that it is God's direct gift to humanity. A very large multitude, who do not recognize its supernatural origin, do exalt its central figure, Jesus Christ, as phenomenal and glorious; a man, yet more than any other man; "higher has the human thought not reached," says Renan. All writers and students of literature recognize the beauty, the vigor, the quickening power, the high morality, and the marvellous charm in the pages of this great volume. The saints revel in it. As the excellent Dr. John Duncan says, "I am conscious of an *air* that comes from the Word of God . . . and it is an *air* to breathe too." Such souls—and they number tens of thousands—live in its bracing and healing atmosphere.

*But a more general study of the Book is demanded*—It is a book needed by all for the sake of its educating power; for the sake of the inspiration which comes from its central biographical figure; for the sake of its spiritual ministry. It pre-occupies and purifies the thought; it gives stimulus to character; it is a weapon of power against moral adversaries; it is a true and trustworthy standard by which we may judge ourselves; it aids in the interpretation of nature, of art, of science, of human nature and of human history; it is a medium of spiritual power to those who believe in it; it gives joy in this life and hope for the eternal life.