

affect the world than in responding thus to its needs, in embodying its ideas. You will see in looking to history that all great men have been a piece of their times ; take them out, and set them elsewhere, they will not fit so well. They were made for their day and generation. The literature that has made any mark, which has been worthy of the name, has always mirrored what was passing around it, not necessarily the mere outside, but the inside, the thoughts more than the actions of men, their feelings, hopes, sentiments, even if it treated of apparently far-off themes. Therefore, how important it is that we should select the best and freshest reading matter to supply our mental wants ; the best in its tone and teaching, and the freshest and purest in its sources of information and study. We look for this in selecting our newspaper ; and if we do this in regard to things of time, and of every day life, how much more necessary and imperative in things relating to spiritual things and eternal life. A recent writer speaking of religious papers says, " No other journalism has anything like the interest which this has, to study with extreme care, and on the widest scale, the new results of research, the new steps of thought, the fresh aspects of experience, the latest signs of progress, because none is so much interested as this to be the prophet of the better progress of mankind, the herald of all noble attainments."

There is no error more natural to good men, than that of misapprehending the condition of the age in which we live, and basing their conclusions on premises drawn from events long passed away, or theories which in the rapid advance of thought have been left behind. The minister or teacher who keeps abreast of the times, and by precept and example strives to lead his people or his class " into all truth," is the man who is the best fulfilling his duty, and is best equipped for every good word and work. As in nature there are provisions made for the growing intelligence of man, so in the Word of God there is full depth and scope for the mind in its progressive state. It contains lessons full of wisdom for the mind of the savage on which the first gleams of light have just broken. In its principles and treasures of truth the cultured sage or profound thinker may gather richer stores to grace his mind and to elevate his intellect. In this it differs from all other books, and does and must ever precede and eclipse the works of man. We regard as one of the remarkable movements of our day, the appointment of a committee of ten, five ministers and five laymen of various sections of the church, to compile and select a course of " Bible lessons " for the Sabbath Schools of the United States, for the years 1873 and '74, which course will probably be adopted to a large extent in our country. In the selection and exposition of such a course of Bible lessons by men of highest culture, acknowledged ability and practical success in Sabbath School work, we conceive that a great step forward has been made ; and that in furnishing Notes and Illustrations on these lessons, the religious papers of to-day are doing much to increase Bible study and make it profitable and attractive. We hold that in