

unuttered as well as uttered distaste for it. The minds of men and women approved, but there was, and still is a clinging to the old "Authorized Version appointed to be read in churches." The inborn conservatism of people is nowhere more apparent than in their dislike of any intermeddling with the Scriptures.

There is still room, however, for intelligent and helpful work in the elucidation of the Bible. To be acquainted with some parts of the Scripture, and to have certain well-known texts and passages ingrained in the mind cannot be regarded as the comprehensive knowledge of the Bible which its greatness deserves. The Bible, as literature, is not so widely studied by the people as it might be. There is time for reading multitudinous novels and magazines, but comparatively few people read the Bible at all thoroughly. Yet there can be no doubt that no course of reading could be more interesting and improving. It is on this account that most attempts to bring the Bible before the modern reader in any fresh and striking way are valuable. Prominent among such attempts must be reckoned the translation of the Bible which is shortly to come from the press of the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore. It is being edited by Prof. Paul Haupt, a young German scholar, who is not only a competent Orientalist, but deeply interested in the Bible from various points of view. He has gathered to his assistance an array of scholarship such as has seldom been employed in the production of any volume, and the result of their labours must naturally be looked for with eager attention.

The feeling that the same sort of criticism that is applied to other books must be applied to the text of the Bible is one that can no longer be treated as if it were irreverent or unholy. The meaning of the Scriptures

can only be found by continual comparison and inference. Human language admits of various interpretations, and every word and every sentence must be modified and explained according to the subject which is discussed; according to the purposes, feelings, circumstances, and principles of the writer; and according to the genius and idioms of the language which he uses. These things must be considered in any intelligent appreciation of the Scriptures, and it is on a basis such as is here indicated that the new translation of the Bible has been made. The attempt has been made to secure a perfect text. In addition to this, what may be called mechanical means have been taken advantage of in its production. The text will be printed on different coloured backgrounds. Original passages, in which criticism can find nothing to alter, will be printed on white. Interpellations, notes, and various changes that are believed to have been made subsequently will be printed on backgrounds of different colours. From this method the book will derive its name of "The Polychrome Bible." It sounds rather fanciful, and American, and modern, but for all that the method may prove to be a useful one. British, American, and German scholars have combined their efforts in the production of the volume, which will be a very complete compendium on Biblical literature. The work has been described as somewhat revolutionary, but there can be no doubt that it will lead to an interest in the Bible as a book such as could hardly be awakened by any other means.—*Mail and Empire, Toronto.*

You have too much respect upon the world;
They lose it that do buy it with much care.

Merchant of Venice, i. 1.