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THE BIBLE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING.

In the blessed pages of the book of life there are words for all. God comes in contact with the souls of men. Sinners and saints—the careless and the concerned, the heedless and the thinking, the fearful and the hopeful, the faithless and the believing, to each, to all there is a message. Promises cheer the eye of the trusting soul; threatenings warn the obstinate rebel. Unto you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning. Thus controversies, in which war has been waged on the true interests of the cause of God, are narrowed to a point, stated in the brief expression of Paul—“our learning.” Against this conclusion infidelity protests, and alas! is aided and abetted by some who wear the robes of priesthood, and the lawn of bishopric. The boast is now of an age of enlightenment. Progress is vaunted. Progress there is, but to what shall it be justly traced? Apart from the influence of the Bible is man nearer the godlike? Has there been discovered a process for the extraction of the sting of death? Are there waters of oblivion to drown the terrors of conscience? Are there opening heavens with fruits of imperishable sweetness disclosed? It is yet true, morally and spiritually of men, that all flesh hath corrupted its way. In certain quarters it may be the fashion to speak of the Bible as a worn out book, only fit for a former age. To this it has been successfully asked—

“How comes it that this little volume, composed by men in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the human mind and on the social system than all the other books put together? Whence comes it that this book has achieved such marvellous changes in the opinions of mankind—has banished idol worship—has abolished infanticide—has put down polygamy and divorce—exalted the condition of woman—raised the standard of public morality—created for families that blessed thing, a Christian home—and caused its other triumphs, by causing benevolent institutions, open and expansive, to spring up as with the wand of enchantment? What sort of a book is this, that even the winds and waves of human passion obey it? What other engine of social improvement has operated so long, and yet lost none of its virtue? Since it appeared, many boasted plans of amelioration have been tried and failed; many codes of jurisprudence have arisen and run their course, and expired. Empire after empire has been launched on the tide of time, and gone down, leaving no trace on the waters. But this book is still going about doing good, leavening society with its holy principles—cheering the sorrowful with its consolation—