

the Bible that announced the destruction of those cities or the sceptics who for ages scoffed at it?

The Bible says there was a city called Nineveh, and that it was three days' journey around it, and that it should be destroyed by fire and water. "Absurd," cried out hundreds of voices for many years; "no such a city was ever built that it would take three days' journey to go around. Besides, it could not be destroyed by fire and water; they are antagonistic elements. But Layard, Botta and Keith go out, and by their explorations they find that city of Nineveh, and they tell us that by their own experiment it is three days' journey around, according to the old estimate of a day's journey, and that it was literally destroyed by fire and water—two antagonistic elements—a part of the city having been inundated by the river Tigris, the brick material in those times being dried clay instead of burned, while in other parts they find the remains of the fire in heaps of charcoal that have been excavated, and in the calcined slabs of gypsum. Who was right, the Bible or Infidelity?

Moses intimated that they had vineyards in Egypt. "Absurd," cried hundreds of voices; "you can't raise grapes in Egypt; or, if you can, it is a very great exception that you can raise them." But the traveller goes down, and in the underground vaults of Erlithya he finds painted on the wall all the process of tending the vines and treading out the grapes. You see the vine did grow in Egypt, whether it grows there now or not.

While God wrote the Bible, at the same time he wrote this commentary, that "the statutes of the Lord are right," on leaves of rock and shell, bound in clasps of metal, and lying on mountain tables and in the jewelled vase of the sea. In authenticity and in genuineness the statutes of the Lord are right.

II. Again: The Bible is right in style. I know there are a great many people who think it is merely a collection of genealogical tables and dry facts. That is because they do not know how to read the book. You take up the most interesting novel that was ever written, and if you commence at the four hundredth page to-day, and to-morrow at the three hundredth, and the next day at the first page, how much sense or interest would you get from it? Yet that is the very process to which the Bible is subjected every day. An angel from heaven, reading the Bible in that way, could not understand it. The Bible, like all other palaces, has a door by which to enter, and a door by which to go out. Genesis is the door to go in, and Revelation the door to go out.

These epistles of Paul the Apostle are merely letters written, folded up, and sent by postmen to different churches. Do you read other letters the way you read Paul's letters? Suppose you get a business letter, and you know that in it there are important financial propositions, do you read the last page first, and then one line of the third page, and another of the second, and another of the first? No. You begin with "Dear Sir," and end with, "Yours truly." Now, here is a letter written from the throne of God to our lost world; it is full of magnificent hopes and propositions, and we dip in here and there, and we know nothing about it. Besides that, people read the Bible when they cannot do anything else. It is a dark day and they do not go to business, and after lounging about a bit they pick up the Bible; their mind refuses to enjoy the truth. Or they come home weary from the store or shop, and they feel, if they do not say, it is a dull book. While the Bible is to be read on stormy days, and while your head aches, it is also to be read in the sunshine and when your nerves, like harp strings, thrum the song of health. While your vision is clear walk in this paradise of truth, and while your mental appetite is good pluck these clusters of grace.

I am fascinated with the conciseness of this book. Every word is packed full of truth. Every sentence is double-barrelled. Every paragraph is like an old banyan tree with a hundred roots and a hundred branches. There has never been a pearl diver who could gather up one-half of the treasures