

sion. He has given his heart and mind to the work of poring over its pages. Not only his *spare time*, but the time also which he cannot so well spare, he seizes and devotes to this purpose. It is the man of his counsel and the guide of his steps. His earnestness is seen in the biblical literature which he has gathered, by which he is aided in unlocking its meaning and coming to the possession of its lofty truths. Thus he honours the Bible truly. He seeks to enter it, not simply with his own narrow mind, uneducated, or half educated, preoccupied and full of predilections and prejudices, nor yet with the best and most highly developed intellect. It deserves, he says, more than this. It is worthy of the best thought, guided by the most ardent prayers, of all the ages of the Church. Into this he endeavours to live himself, so that he may be the better qualified properly to honour the Sacred Treasure, and from it derive those lessons which may guide him on his way through a perverted world to his Father's house.

But how seldom do we find such instances of Bible devotion at the present day! How seldom it is that persons are found seeking aids of the character indicated, to help them to a proper understanding of the word of God! When it is read, it is for the most part in a perfectly disconnected way, without rule or system of any kind. The whole manner of Bible reading, as a general thing, shows plainly enough, that however precious the Bible may be in itself, it is not for the readers what, in their professions, they say it is.

There is plainly a deception in regard to this subject. Our professions are ill sustained by our conduct. Love for the Bible, or attachment to it, is not by any means as great as we often suppose. How is this general carelessness to be accounted for? Not, certainly, on the ground of an insufficient effort to circulate the Holy Scriptures. No period has been more distinguished for work of this character than the present. Besides, men are exhorted to read and treasure it with an earnestness which has certainly never been surpassed; and yet the fact is, that previous periods are far in advance of the present in earnest, deep, prayerful searchings of the word of God.

We press the question: why are the Holy Scriptures so superficially skimmed over, so thoughtlessly read, so generally neglected and dishonoured? There is no fact that has not its producing cause somewhere, or in something; and certainly there is such a cause for this. It is important that we should understand it. In no other way can it be removed. The Holy Scriptures demand a reverence which, we must all confess, they do not receive. To cultivate this, the cause producing the present irreverence must be ascertained and removed. This must be ascertained, not by one mind, nor by one hundred, but by the general Christian mind. All earnest spirits are interested in this question. What mind, zealous for the glory of God and the proper honour of his word, can rest satisfied with the present status of professedly Christian communities in their relation to the Bible? And then, even the present posture of the mind in relation to the Scriptures, bad as it is, is rapidly growing into one that is worse. The evil seems to be increasing day by day. What must the end be? We shall not now indicate our own view as to the cause of this growing evil. Our object is to start the question in other minds: **WHY IS THE HOLY BIBLE THUS NEGLECTED AND DISHONoured, ALTHOUGH SO FREELY AND GENERALLY CIRCULATED?**—*Church Messenger.*