



### THE LIVING BIBLE.



It would be folly for any person to deny the antiquity of the Scriptures. The writing of them extended through more than fifteen centuries, and the earlier portions were written more than three thousand years ago. There is no other record so connected and clearly defined of equal antiquity.

When we consider the character of the times through which the Scriptures have come down to us, how can we doubt that they have been watched over by the all-seeing eye and defended by the unseen, yet almighty hand of God?

Unnumbered generations have drifted down the stream of time and been swallowed up in eternity; empires have risen and fallen; thrones have been set up and have tottered, crumbling and dissolved; revolutions have marched over the fall of nations with earthquake tread, with the sword in one hand and the lighted torch in the other; and world-famed libraries, containing the gathered learning and wisdom of ages, vanished in smoke, while the Bible came down to us through the whole, un mutilated by Vandal hands, undimmed by the mildew of ages, and unsoiled by the dust of more than thirty centuries.

The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, and when these languages became out of date, it seized upon the living languages of the world, and is now read in more than two hundred languages and dialects! The Bible has a stronger hold upon the world to-day than it ever had before, and stronger than any other book, and more copies of it are printed, circulated, and read than of any other, and no other book is read in so many languages and dialects. Is there nothing supernatural and divine in such a book?

Great God! with wonder and with praise,  
On all Thy works I look;  
But still Thy wisdom, power, and grace,  
Shine brightest in Thy book.

Then let me love the Bible more,  
And take a fresh delight  
By day to read these wonders o'er,  
And meditate by night.



### LENDING TO THE LORD.



HUNDRED years ago Samuel Hick, a lowly evangelist, was widely known in Yorkshire. His benevolence was unbounded, and his deeds of charity were only limited by the contents of his pocket. His wife was obliged to secure a portion for household expenses before he went abroad, and to take care that his pocket was not too full, for he was sure to return with it empty.

But Samuel sometimes gave her the slip. Once, when he was on a journey, he had occasion to visit a minister at an early hour. He found him with a sick wife and no servant, preparing a very coarse breakfast for his eight children. Samuel gazed at them with pity, went out, and wept. On searching his pocket, he found that it contained two guineas, one of which was borrowed. He immediately gave one of them to the minister, and when he returned home accounted for it to Martha by saying that "he had lent the Lord a guinea at Rochdale."

Martha thought half-a-guinea would have been sufficient; but he replied, "Bless thee, my lass, the Lord will soon make it up to us." And it so happened that he got several pounds unexpectedly in a few weeks.

Returning from the coal-pit one day, with his cart full, he was addressed by a little girl, who ran out of a cottage to beg a little bit of coal, as her mother was ill and they had no fire.

Samuel stopped, went into the house and made inquiries; finding it a case of need, he poured out his load at the door; and then went back to the pit and got another load for himself on credit.

He denied himself to benefit others. Having given a poor widow sixpence, she thanked him in a way that overpowered his feelings. His mind was still dwelling upon it, when the thought occurred to him, "Can sixpence make a poor creature happy? How many sixpences have I spent on this mouth of mine in feeding it with tobacco! I will never take another pipe whilst I live, and I will give to the poor what I save from it."

Some time afterwards he was taken ill, and his medical attendant told him that he must resume the use of the pipe. "Never more, sir, while I live. Let come what will, I'll never take another pipe; I've told my Lord so, and I'll abide by it." And he sacredly kept his vow.

### THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE LORD.

READ LUKE iv. 1-13.



WE read before of the Holy Ghost descending on Jesus, and now we find Him "full of the Holy Ghost." The Holy Spirit abode in Him, remained in Him. Thus He was ready to meet temptation.

We are taught to pray, "Lead us not into temptation;" yet here we find our Lord Himself, who taught us that prayer, "led by the Spirit into the wilderness," where He was to be tempted. But temptation could not overcome Him; rather His power over Satan was all the more shown by this temptation, and so all turned out to the glory of God. Though God does not lead us into temptation, yet He does let us be tempted; but He will not suffer us to be tempted above what He will enable us to bear.

Satan does not know everything; no one does but