

mention the topic treated of in each paragraph contained in the chapter, and are useful in helping to a distinct apprehension of what we read. Take for instance the first chapter of Proverbs, read it without, and then with the table of contents, and the value of the latter help will at once be apparent.

Special attention should be paid to the *references to parallel passages*. The Bible itself is the best commentary, and unless we are diligent in searching out and comparing Scripture with Scripture, we shall never have an intelligent knowledge of the Word of God. To facilitate this object every reader should have a reference Bible, and cultivate the habit of comparing one verse or passage with another.

As indicated by the heading of this paper, we have endeavored merely to supply "hints" that may be useful to ordinary readers of the English Bible. At the same time let us remember that all aids are valueless without the Holy Spirit. He only can open the eyes of our understanding, and enable us to behold wondrous things out of God's law. Without this divine Teacher the word will remain to us a sealed book. Let us then, as we open the sacred word, breathe fervently the prayer:—

"Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
Let us thine influence prove;
Source of the old prophetic fire,
Fountain of Light and Love.

Come, Holy Ghost, (for moved by Thee
The Prophets wrote and spoke,)
Unlock the Truth, thyself the Key,
Unseal the Sacred Book."

A. SUTHERLAND.

THE REV. WILLIAM HAY.

In Memoriam.

THIS highly esteemed and useful minister was born in Ayrshire Scotland, on the 2nd of February, 1832, and died at Clifton Springs, New York, on the 3rd of September, 1874, in the forty-third year of his age and the nineteenth of his ministry. His father