

from a life of swindling to a life of honesty by reading Colenso's Commentary on the Pentateuch; that a profligate had become moral by adopting the views of Renan, as laid down in his life of Jesus; or that a careless, worldly man had become very devout and heavenly-minded by the perusal of Professor Huxley's lay-sermons? "By their fruits ye shall know them," is the Saviour's own test. We will still hold fast to the good old Book, binding it to our bosom, and hiding it in our heart, for we find that it fits the whole nature of man just as nicely as its own key fits into every ward of the most complicated lock.

But it is not merely our duty to hold the Bible fast, but also to hold it forth to others. And what motives, it may be asked, should induce us to do this? I answer, obedience to the first and second great Commandments—love to God, and love to man. If even a heathen Roman could say, "I am a man, and nothing that concerns humanity can cease to be of interest to me"; and could draw cheers from a Roman crowd by saying it; how much more interest should the Christian feel, not in the temporal, but in the spiritual welfare of his brother-man? For, if this Book is the only lamp of life that can guide the pilgrim's feet from the City of Destruction to the New Jerusalem, shall we not give it to those that are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death? If this Book is the only bread of life that can satisfy the heart-hunger of earth's perishing millions, we cannot, we dare not withhold it from them. "The love of Christ will constrain us." We will feel that the verse in the well-known missionary hymn of the good and great Bishop Heber might well read thus: *not shall we, but*

*"Can we whose souls are lighted,
With wisdom from on high;
Can we to man benighted,
The lamp of life deny?"*

It is the grand peculiarity of the present glorious dispensation, that every man born in a country where the way of salvation is known, has, as his blessed birthright, the free offer of mercy through Jesus Christ; and it ought to be the aim of every lover of the Bible to labour, and contribute, and pray that the Scriptures may be circulated in every land, and translated into every tongue; so that every child of Adam may soon possess a copy of the sacred volume, and reading therein the wonderful works of God, may become wise unto salvation.

The speaker then proceeded to congratulate the meeting on the increased income of the Society during the past year, on the fact that we have been permitted not only to supply the wants of our own home-field, but also to extend aid to the sister societies in Quebec, Ottawa, and Montreal. He also referred to the beginning made in distributing God's word through the north-western portion of the Dominion, and expressed the hope that some stray copy might fall into the hands of that rascal Riel (and a *real* rascal he feared he was), and that he might learn from it, both to fear God, and to live in subjection to the powers that be. The field, however, was the world. Already thirty Bible Societies were in existence, which were publishing the Word of God in some two hundred different languages, spoken by some 800,000,000 people. By these Societies eight million copies of the Bible are issued every year, or at the rate of fifteen every minute. Surely we have reason to "Thank God and take courage."

Mr. Stewart then referred briefly to the influence of the Bible in maintaining peace among the nations of the earth, deprecating the malicious attempts that were sometimes made to stir up strife between Great Britain and the United States, and expressing the conviction that the fact that these two great nations led the van in the great work of studying and disseminating God's truth was the best pledge and guarantee for the maintenance of an honourable and lasting peace.

In conclusion, said the speaker, it will surely not be deemed amiss if, ere sitting down, I urge that each of us prize and study the Bible more. Let us