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### THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

It belongs to the Protestant Church to make great account of the Bible. For this it has been distinguished from the first days of the Reformation; and we hope the time may never come when it shall be less sacredly regarded or highly prized. As an inspired revelation from God, and as meeting us in a darkened and perverted world, surrounded as we are by sin, error, and temptation, all calculated to lead us astray and involve us in utter ruin at last, it fully merits, and should always receive, our deepest veneration, and excite our profoundest study.

But it cannot be denied that our professed regard for the Bible is not always illustrated in such a manner as best to prove its sincerity. The claims of the Bible are not to be put off with eulogies, however high-wrought and beautiful these may be. There are many, who would be quite willing to fight for the Bible, who yet find it very difficult even to read it with any degree of concentration and care, to say nothing of shaping their lives by its precepts. Weeks and months, in the case of some, are allowed to pass away before they once turn to its sacred pages; and then, often, the only purpose that actuates them is an idle curiosity, or the desire to controvert the position taken by some one else in regard to its teachings.

With all the effort that has been made in its favour, the fact still remains and is patent—the Bible does not sustain that sacred relation to the heart that it ought to sustain—is not for the general Protestant mind that holy and sublime interest that it should be—does not carry in it that grand treasure which in words we attribute to it. Here and there an earnest old-style Protestant Christian may be found, who, in the way of practical attention to the Bible, consistently illustrates and forcibly proves his profes-