

oracles are "not a fable cunningly devised" by the ingenuity of man, or they would have borne the trace of human weakness and human error; but that they are the dictates of the God of Wisdom and of Truth, and bear the stamp of the divine perfections. It is true that some who love not the truth have pretended to have discovered incongruities in the Sacred Scriptures; but those which are alleged to be at variance, when more closely examined, only prove their more perfect consistency, like some of those parts of an immense building, which, considered by themselves, seem to be out of place and unconnected, but when viewed in reference to the whole, appear in beautiful harmony, and necessary to the perfection of the structure.

From whatever point of view, then, we contemplate the Bible, we are irresistibly drawn to the conclusion that it consists of truth without any mixture of error. Whether we examine it in the light of the credentials which it brings along with it, or open the volume itself, and look at the evidences of its divine original which beam forth from every page,—this is the verdict which every sound mind must be constrained to return, "Thy Word is Truth, unmingled Truth."

II. The Word of God is important Truth.

There is much that is true, and of which a man may nevertheless be ignorant without any very great disadvantage. It is quite true that this earth on which we dwell is of a globular form; but many good men have lived and died, and gone to heaven, and are happy there, without being aware of the fact we have mentioned. It is true that the Sun is the centre of our system; but many ages passed before its truth was established; and no great evil resulted from want of the knowledge. It is quite true that such men as Alexander the Great and Julius Cæsar and Napoleon have lived, and, in the madness of their ambition, have desolated many a land, and created sorrow around many a once happy hearth. But there are, probably, some parts of the world where the names of those once famous warriors have never been heard; and no bad consequences have been caused by their ignorance. No associations have been formed, and none have been required, to impart a knowledge of Astronomy, or Geography, or secular History, to the unenlightened Heathen. It may be well to know these things; but no very great sacrifices, no very strenuous exertions, are demanded, on our part, in order that they should be known to all. They are truths, but not so important, either to the present or eternal well-being of our fellow men, that we are bound to labour, incessantly, and give liberally, and pray earnestly, that they may be universally diffused.

The Word of God, however, is not only Truth, but truth of the deepest and most essential importance to man. Were we to be told now, for the first time, that the Lord Jehovah had spoken to man, that a message from the Upper Sanctuary had reached this lower world, we should be ready, without hesitation, to conclude that it must be on matters of the highest and most momentous interest to the human race. And these natural anticipations are abundantly verified. When we look into the Word of God itself, we find that it addresses men on subjects that deeply concern him. It tells him of his origin, his present state, and his final destiny. It is from the pages of the Bible that we learn that man was originally created in the image of God, and that all nature was formed to minister to his happiness. From it we learn that, when the Almighty had finished the creation of this world, He looked abroad over the magnificent structure that His hands had reared, and pronounced all "very good." There was nothing to offend the eye even of Him who is purity itself. Sin, with its attendant train of sorrows, had, as yet, found no entrance into this holy dwelling place. Man, though an inhabitant of this earth, held high communion with the God of heaven. Every faculty of his soul was attuned to his Maker's service. Pain was a thing as yet unknown. There was nothing to hurt nor destroy