

should commit Scripture to memory as an exercise of intelligence ; it being understood, at the same time, that the memorizing of Scripture by the young is chiefly the laying up of material for future use. For the great benefit of the memorizing of Scripture, on the part of our children, does not accrue to them in immediate connection with the exercise, as the benefit of preaching does to the hearer, but is subsequent, often remotely subsequent, to it. But when the benefit does accrue, as it does so often, and sometimes when all hope of it has died away, it is unspeakably great, as it is permanent.

Our young people themselves cannot be expected to appreciate the good they are treasuring up for themselves, in committing portions of Scripture to memory. The value of the acquisition that is made by a young person whose mind has become largely stored with Scripture, can perhaps be fully appreciated only by those who have occasion to deal with persons of mature years, and especially with aged people, in relation to their spiritual interests. Every one who is called to deal with those whom accident or sickness has awakened to concern about the future, knows the difference between ministering, in such cases, to those whose minds are stored with Scripture truth, and ministering to those who have grown up in ignorance of it. In the one case, it is a comparatively easy thing to minister with good success—to bring light and peace to the sufferer, the light and peace of intelligent trust and enlightened penitence ; whereas, in the other case, it is often next to impossible to impart, to the mind of the suffering or dying man, a right conception of his moral relation to God, and of the way of salvation. It seems as if the constitutional legalism of the mind has become so inveterate, that the soul is inaccessible to any religious idea beyond regret for the past, and purpose to do better, should life be prolonged.

In view of what may be before our young people, in the providence of God, we cannot, when labouring to store their minds with Scripture, calculate what good we are doing, in