

thought it did. The question of the Revision of Creeds would be settled in a way not generally anticipated; and the more momentous problem, the Revision of Morals, would occupy the attention of the United Church.

Less *ism* spirit and more Holy Spirit as our guide; less commentary and more Bible as our outfit; less desire to throw God's Word unto "Our Church's" moulds, and more of honest effort to square our own tenets with the teachings of Scripture, would greatly promote the glory of God and the spiritual knowledge of His people. The Bible should outweigh all other books put together, in a minister's search for truth. I am aware that it does so *in theory*; I am not so certain that it does so *in practice*. I am convinced that nine-tenths of the reading of ministers centres round the Bible; but my contention is that this is not so helpful as if one-half of our reading was spent *on the Bible itself*. The cry of Luther, "Back to the Bible" resulted in a Reformation. But if that cry could only find a *deeper* echo in our hearts; if the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God," could only be *completely* unsheathed from its scabbard of perplexing and ponderous commentaries, there would be "heaps upon heaps" slain; for 'the slain of the Lord would be many.' Instead of saying, I wonder how Meyer, or Lange, or Henry treats this verse, let us say, How does the Bible in other passages throw light on this verse?

Permit a few words about Method of Bible study. I do not pretend to be competent to say what is the *best* method; but from experience I can testify that for the younger men, at least, the following plan will be found most interesting and instructive.

*First.* Take up a *single Book* of the Bible, such as an Epistle or one of the Prophets. Make yourself so familiar with *the people* to whom it is addressed, and with *the circumstances* under which it was called forth, that, while reading it, you are breathing as nearly as possible *the very atmosphere* in which it was inspired. Then read it over, and over, and over again. It will expand, open out, and unfold before you, until you seem to be able to walk amidst its glorious truths. Analyse its argument, weigh its teachings, and, when you go out for a walk, search for illustrations of its truths. If you should then look up a commentary on the subject, you would be delighted and impressed with a few of the comments; but would find that you had anticipated most of the best of them; and were in a position to see the utter nonsense and worthlessness of the majority of them. The whole Bible should be thus studied Book by Book.