

There are several points in which, however, the book might be improved, should the sale of it in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick be so great as to warrant the preparation of an Edition for local circulation, and it is to be hoped that this may be the case. I shall not trespass upon your space this month, but will refer to the subject again should you see meet to place space in the *Record* at my disposal for the purpose. Meanwhile, hoping you will announce the arrival of the expected copies of the Hymnal ere long,

I remain, expectingly,

November 1st, 1870.

TRURO.

BIBLE LESSON.

BY REV. P. MELVILLE, M. A., B. D.

Dear Christian Brethren and Sisters,—Let every one of you that feels any need either to know your own soul, or to know God in Christ, consider well for what end you came into this world. It is dangerous to remain ignorant of this, lest your life becomes a final failure.

Our souls have come into this world, but who knows whence? They shall at length leave this body and go away, but who knows whither? As a tender bird that flies through the wintry snow, and entering a warm and happy home by an open window, goes out by another window into the dusky, falling snow, alone and unknown: so are our souls. Coming as strangers into this world, we are warm and happy for a little while, and then we go away alone; but oh! whence have we come? and whither do we go at last?

Is there no voice from heaven to tell us *whence*, and *what*, and *why* we are? Could our great Maker feel in his heart to cast us forth on this rude world, forlorn as orphans, without one word of Divine counsel or consolation? Should not a just God reveal His Word or counsel to His rational creatures? Should not the Father of Spirits visit with mercy the souls He has made?

Assuredly. If God is love, He cannot choose but visit and help us, and instruct us in all that is best for us to know and do.

This He has done by his WORD; not only the spoken Word, and the written Word, but even by the Eternal and Living Word, which was in the beginning with God, and Divine. In this Word, God has united Himself with Humanity, and become manifest in the flesh to save the world He made.

His Written Word (the Bible) differs from all merely human books in this, that it contains depths within depths, and height within height, of Divine meaning. In its *letter* (or outward, literal meaning) it differs not so much from other books; but it has a *spirit* within its letter, and a Divine life within its spirit. Christ, the highest authority of all, declares,—“The words that I speak unto you are spirit, and they are life.” “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Now we are but beginning to perceive the divine depth of truth in these hints; and the highest Philosophy, as well as the most advanced Science, points steadily in this very direction.

Let us begin, therefore, to study anew the *letter* of the Divine Word—namely, its literal sense. Then shall we begin also to understand its *spirit*; and then, too, shall we receive of its Divine *life*, if we be but faithful to its most sacred influence. The whole revelation of this Blessed Book centres in four most precious and soul-saving truths—namely:

1. There is only one God, who is infinite in Wisdom, Power, and Love. He is the Creator, the Saviour, and the Judge of the Universe.

2. He has made us immortal souls, and has given us such powers as are capable of using His gracious gifts and influences for our own salvation, or else of abusing them to our own perdition.

3. He has not only given us His written Word to direct us, but has come in