

and superstition have scattered all around the walls. But that frozen music refuses to come down ! Because you dishonour the walls, because you do not apprehend the grandeur of the architect's work, still as lofty as ever shall be the nave, still as splendid as ever shall be the legends painted upon the windows ; whether we bring our conduct up or down, there is in the Bible a standard which remains firm and fast, demanding that we shall come up to it, for it will never come down to us.

And now there is this third point. The Bible, we have seen, is the conservative force in law, the Bible is the conservative force in conduct, character, and the Bible is the conservative force also in *religion*. Have you ever remarked that the Bible never appears alone. I know that when I see this Bible here it stands representing not itself only, but certain other things. It is like that magnificent group of stars which shines upon the midnight sky, each one of which is distinct and clear, but is, nevertheless, always found in relation to some other star. With the Bible take their stand on the one hand the right of private judgment, on the other the doctrine of justification by faith. When Luther groped his way out into truth along the pages of the Epistle to the Romans he found in the Bible not only free grace and salvation for all through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, but he found absolute equality for all Christians, the Headship of our Saviour, the Priesthood of our Saviour, who has passed into the holiest of all where He ever liveth to make intercession for us. Joseph Cook says that throughout his work over the world wherever he found three certain doctrines faithfully preached he was certain a great revival would follow : and these are the "three doctrines" :—The absolute necessity of repentance towards God, the doctrine of the supremacy of Scripture, and the doctrine of the atonement through the blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Now the same thing holds true with us here. Some might question whether one could trace any important connection between a revival of religion and the circulation of the Bible ; but will any one tell me that he has found a revival of religion springing up where there was not any Bible to be found, or not one copy of the Scriptures in circulation. I have been looking back into history, and I have found this true, whenever the Bible began to multiply then souls also began to be converted, and I could make for you a map to-night and prove that ; I could draw a salvation map of the world and show that wherever numbers turned to the Lord there copies of the Scriptures were multiplied. Wycliffe has said "There is no grander service to which a man can give himself than the preaching of the word of God." He was so convinced of this that he trained those poor preachers of his—not poor except in pocket, and sent them out throughout the sunny fields of England. So was it with Luther in Germany, and Calvin in Geneva, so with Colet in St. Paul's, and verily so hath it been with other less known but not less illustrious witnesses for truth, and my friend Mr. Moody tells me precisely the same thing, or rather the booksellers in the city do, to whom I go. When I go into any place where Mr. Moody has been working and ask these men of the book-stores,—"How do you find the circulation of the Bible,—do you sell many Bibles now?" the testimony is always the same. Wherever he goes and begins to preach the sale of the Scriptures is multiplied. What does that mean ? It is quite worth our while—as we are out of the reach of his ear—it is quite worth our while for us to pause and know what it means. We should have the Bible in every pew, in the hand of every worshipper, and never rest satisfied until all the congregation are bible-readers. I suppose it is unnecessary to say it here, but I was going to say let us not only have the Bible in the pews, but let us also have the Bible in the pulpits. I do hope that in Toronto you do not treat the Bible as some of us in the States treat it.