

the disclosure of all this confirmatory testimony should be reserved to the period when it was most wanted to meet the most formidable assault ever made upon the historical verity of the sacred Scriptures.

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4. I beg leave to submit to your consideration another Providential movement in favour of the Bible, which strikes me as not a little remarkable. I refer to the concert effort which is now being made to convert the Sabbath School into a regular Biblical Institute.

Almost without hesitation the system has been adopted by all branches of the Christian Church; and to day the ripest scholarship is employed in pouring the accumulated stores of Biblical learning into the lap of the Sabbath school, which had before been treasured in Theological seminaries as a species of esoteric and professional lore. The generations of the future will thus be trained in the knowledge of the Bible as, in itself, a complete Organon: a book of history with its testimonial facts—a book of principles with their tremendous moral sweep—a book to enlighten the reason, and to direct the conscience, and to sanctify the affections—a book, the test of character and the guide of conduct—a book, the final arbiter of all disputes, and the key to open the door of everlasting blessedness and glory.

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What then is the conclusion into which we drift from this antithesis between infidel propagandism on the one hand, and this Bible education on the other? Why only that the controversies of the age are narrowing down to the issue between a Divine testimony and all human speculations. It is true now as of old, that "the battle is not ours but God's;" and He says to us as He did to Ahab, "because the Syrians have said the Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into their hand—and ye shall see that I am the Lord." It is fit that the Supreme Book, which gives the mind of the Supreme Jehovah, should have power behind it to enforce its testimonies upon the consciences and hearts of men. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Therefore it is the church has planted herself upon the Divine word: and therefore it is we are educating our children to stand squarely upon its authority. When infidelity and scepticism marshal their forces, we are content to let the Bible speak with its own voice. The glory of victory shall belong only to Him by whom it is achieved. Let the great battle then with Gog and Magog be fought upon these holy plains, and the host of Israel exclaim "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

5. I will fatigue your patience with only one illustration further of my general theme. It is found in the division of the church into different branches, or, as it is sometimes invidiously termed, into different sects. This divergence has been thrown as a reproach into the face of our Protestant Christianity, nor will I undertake to deny that it furnishes proof of human infirmity. Perhaps it is a fault that we cannot see eye to eye upon all the details of the Christian scheme. But when the vast comprehension of the system is considered, as well as the depths of mystery in which its fundamental truths are sunk—and when further we take into account the natural tendency of the human mind to divergence in the field of speculation—there is at least a diminution of the reproach. Yet if it be an evil, it has unquestionably been allowed in the Providence of God; and it may be of that class which Divine wisdom sees fit to subordinate to a superior good. It cannot be denied that all bodies of Christians, which stand upon the authority and teachings of the Bible, agree entirely upon all the ground facts which that book reveals, however they may diverge in their articulate expositions and deductions. Upon such fundamental truths as the unity of God, and the adorable mystery of a tripersonal distinction in that unity—upon the reality of the Incarnation, involving the two natures in the person of Jesus Christ—upon the fact of redemption accomplished through His death upon the Cross—upon the doc-