

It prescribes definitely, by precept and example, how this end may be attained. It teaches us of a sleepless Providence, which secures seedtime and harvest, which numbers the hairs of our heads, which cares for the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, and for our temporal and spiritual wants. The eyes of the Lord, it says, run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. However dim our vision and dull our taste by reason of sin, it cries to us, Oh taste and see that the Lord is good and gracious; He is long-suffering to the children of men. It teaches the duty and the privilege of prayer. Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you, for everyone that asketh receiveth. It promises the Holy Spirit to keep us in times of weakness and sorrow and temptation. It invites all to its gospel feast. Though infinitely holy the Deity it reveals, the invitation sent to sinful men is, Come! Are you hungry, thirsty?—have you no money?—without money, without price, come; and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

And beyond this changing scene of conflict, sorrow, mortality, and graves, it points all who hear and heed to a bright realm where sorrow and sighing forever flee away; where all tears are wiped from all faces; and triumphant over sin and Satan and death, and every trace of the divine displeasure, they shall live and reign with Christ forever. Such knowledge as this is vital. Let the soul put itself under the direction and control of such inspiring and saving truths as these, affiliating it with God and angels, and linking it to such a magnificent destiny, and no wonder it will love the blood-bought mercy seat, and pour forth its grateful joy in sacred song, and go cheerful and singing even through a world of evil on its way to everlasting bliss. It finds its happiness in Christian service in the home circle, at the meeting of social prayer, in the sanctuary, and in carrying out the Master's golden rule, to do unto others as you would have others do unto you; it becomes a better father, a better mother, a better son or daughter, a better citizen—purer, truer, and nobler in all the relations of life. Hence it is said: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."—*The Repository*.

JAPAN.

When the Bible has been translated and published for any nation, it is all important that it be read and studied. It is therefore gratifying to see what success has attended the efforts of the Scripture Union in Japan, to promote the systematic reading of the Holy Scriptures. At the sixth annual meeting of the Union, which was held in Tokio on the 13th of December, an address was delivered by Dr. Eby, of the Canada Methodist Mission, on "The benefits, both physical and spiritual, accruing to the lower classes from the circulation of the Bible." Rev. H. Kozaki followed with an address on "The Distinguishing Characteristics of the Bible," with illustrations from his own experience and that of others, to show that it excelled every other book. He stated that on becoming a Christian, while at school at Kumamoto, he was persecuted by his friends and relatives, his parents even threatening to disown him. The only thing which enabled him to endure this persecution was the Bible. He drew attention to its perennial freshness, so that one never fails to find some new thing in it. He was followed by the Rev. W. Spinner, who made a scholarly address in German on "The Influence of the Bible on Society," which was interpreted to the audience by Mr. Minami.