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BIBLE SOCIETY SERMON.

Preached in the Metropolitan Methodist Church Toronto, on the Evening of Sunday, May 2nd, 1875.

(BY THE REV. JOHN POTTS.)

“And they are they which testify of me.”—John v., 39.

Every author has a purpose, and every book has a mission, and I might add that every book has an influence. The history of literature has chronicled a great variety of purpose on the part of authors and of influence on the part of books. Purposes of orthodoxy and scepticism, and purposes of philanthropy and selfishness have been the moving powers in the minds of authors. Influences of light and darkness—of health, and sickness, have been streaming from the literature of the ages. This book, called by way of eminence, The Book, has an author, has a mission, and has an influence. The Bible is unlike every other Book in the world. Its demands are greater than those of any other. It claims authorship in God. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” It has a place in the history of literature which gives it a peerless pre-eminence. The Bible is the book of all climes, of all ages, of all peoples—adapted to those of every kindred, nation, people and tongue. It is equally the book for the cultured and intellectual few and for the untrained many of the world’s men. It is a book for the nursery, the school, the college and the church. It is intended for the opening minds of earth’s children, and is, unquestionably, the one book for enfeebled old age. It has a mission to the man of business, amid the cares and bustle of life’s battle, with the many temptations thereof, and it comes with ministries of divinest tenderness to the sick chamber and to the prisoners of God’s disciplinary providence. This marvellous Book—wonderful in its authorship, in its contents, in its preservation, in its power over the greatest and best of the race, in its ability to live through successive and herculean efforts to destroy it—this Book is wonderful in the intensity of its friends and in the virulence of its foes. It has had a history almost miracu-