

church has a noble office; she is the perpetual witness for Christ; she is "the pillar and ground of the truth." Nor must we disparage the human Reason. It is the image of God in man. By the reason, as illumined by the Holy Spirit, thro living faith and intelligent prayer, we apprehend the meaning of Scripture. But the Scripture, the New Testament, as the declared and explicit will of Christ, holds authority over the Church and the Reason alike. It is more than supreme; it is sole sovereign, and occupies an undivided throne.

It is intentional also that we speak of the New Testament only, and not of the whole Bible, as the sole authority in religious thought and life. The Old Testament indeed is the word of God, to be received and obeyed as such; but it has been supplemented and completed by the New Testament telling of the incarnation and teaching of Jesus Christ, and of the redemption thro Him. The New Testament therefore as recording the fulfilment of the Old, is the key to its right interpretation and meaning. We read and accept the Old in the light of the New, and not the New in the light of the Old. The Old Testament has lost none of its value by the accomplishment of its prophecies and types in Christ. He Himself says: "Search the Scriptures,—I, e., the Old Testament Scriptures,—it is they that testify concerning Me" (John vi: 39). This is the divine way of saying what we are trying to say,—that we must study and obey the Old Testament; but the key to its interpretation is in Jesus Christ, and He has given to us this key in the New Testament.

Of course it is to the New Testament as originally given that this quality of sole authority attaches. A transcript or translation of the original is authoritative only in so far as it is correct. There can be no sanctity or obligatoriness in a misrepresentation or a blunder. While it is true that the autograph manuscripts of evangelists and apostles have long since perished, and true that there are many mistakes of a minor sort in the many hundreds of manuscripts of the Greek New Testament which still exist, it is not true that there is any serious doubt that we have the New Testament in all essential respects just as its authors left it. We cannot now exhibit the evidence for this statement, but the evidence is within the reach of every earnest student, and is well worthy of his attention. The subject is as fascinating as it is instructive and important. Drs. Wescott and Hort, the able English scholars who devoted a quarter of a century of patient study to this great matter, and who published eight years ago the results of their labors in a most trustworthy Greek New Testament, give this testimony, viz: "If comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the article with proper names, and the like, are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the whole New Testament." That is to say, in a copy of the New Testament in good-sized type, occupying five hundred pages, all the sentences and phrases and words that present any probable variation from the form in which the original writers left them can be placed upon half a page. Or again: In the New Testament there are about eight thousand verses. All the doubtful passages therefore will not extend beyond the space of eight verses. This is a very striking and reassuring fact. Its full significance must be left to every reader's own inquiry and meditation. It may be added that these variations, important as they are, are wholly verbal and philological, and do not touch a single doctrine of the New Testament.

As to the Old Testament we may say in a word that we have just the same Scriptures that Jesus Christ used and endorsed and enjoined upon His disciples. Surely Jesus Christ's Bible will be accepted as authentic and authoritative for us.

We intended to add some suggestions as to the best methods of ascertaining the meaning of the New Testament, of studying its books, but this is a large subject, and our space is already more than filled. Let us hold fast our primary and fundamental position, that the New Testament is our sole authority in all matters of religious truth and religious duty.

### A Single Victory for Abstinence.

In several numbers of the National Advocate we have called attention to the recognition by the Life Insurance Societies of Great Britain of the claims of the total abstainer that he is a better risk than the drinking man. Now some American life insurance companies are coming to take the same position and officially recognize the total abstainer as a man in better health and with better chances of long life than the drinking man, hence entitled to lower rates; and one of the leading companies has established a total abstinence class, and offers lower rates to men who do not drink.

The abstinence clause in the contract is at once an avowal of temperance in the past and a pledge not to drink in the future. The applicant must testify that he has been a total abstainer from all sorts of liquors, and must pledge himself to the same abstinence during the life of the policy.

Officials of the company admit that an injustice was done to men who have been total abstainers in placing them on the same rating as men who drink. The records of the company readily establish the fact that the proportion of deaths among drinking men was greater than the proportion among abstainers, and yet, as an insurance risk, both have been regarded upon the same footing.

An actuary of the company which has taken the step new to American insurance said that while the company did not consider itself a temperance society and was not segregating all its policy holders who are total abstainers, it would put in this new class any accepted applicant for insurance who declared that he had been a total abstainer from the use as a beverage of alcoholic liquors, indulging wine, beer and fermented cider, and as a condition of membership in this class would agree to remain a total abstainer as long as his policy is in force, any surplus being based upon the experience of the society on policies belonging to the total abstinence class.

For Mothers—Children need models more than criticism.

To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself.

The sooner you get a child to be a law unto himself, the sooner you will make a man of him.

We can never check what is evil in the young unless we cherish what is good in them.

Line upon line, precept upon precept we must have in a home. But we must also have serenity, peace, and the absence of petty fault-finding, if home is to be a nursery fit for heaven's growing plants.

### Notices.

#### N. B. Southern Association.

The Southern Association will meet with the Tabernacle Baptist church in St. John on the 5th of July. Will all the churches please be prompt in sending in their letters to J. F. Black, Fairville.

A. T. DYKEMAN, Moderator.

#### TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS.

The delegates to the above Association who have purchased one first class ticket, and received a standard certificate at place of purchase, will be returned free over the I. C. R. and C. P. R. and Shore Line Railroads. The river steam

ers will grant usual reductions. No reduction in rates from Fairville and Carleton.

J. D. FREEMAN.

Will all delegates to the N. B. Southern Association which is to meet with the Tabernacle Baptist church, St. John, please send their names to the undersigned if they wish entertainment during the session and arrangements for their comfort will be made.

HOWARD H. ROACH.

93 Elliott Row, St. John.

#### N. B. Western Association.

The New Brunswick Western Baptist Association will convene (D. V.) with the Rockland Baptist church, Carleton county, on Friday 2.30 p. m., June 27th. We hope to see a large delegation from the churches.

C. N. BARTON, Clerk.

Debec Junction, May 8th.

### Religious News.

Our annual business meeting HILLSDALE, N. B., was held June 7th. The service was harmonious and helpful, the old officers were all re-elected. The reports showed last year was one of marked prosperity. Sunday was a blessed season. Four were baptized and received into church fellowship. The annual roll call was held, to which all but 18 of our members responded, after which our pastor gave us one of his best discourses on our relationship and privileges as children. Gal. 3: 4 and 46.

C. M. FERGUSON, Sec'y.

June 11th.

We are being favored here THE FIRST CHURCH with the divine blessing. HILLSBORO, N. B. The church is being quickened and there are signs which lead us to hope for great blessing. On last Sabbath 11 happy young believers were baptized upon profession of their faith in Christ. There are others received for baptism and many under conviction. On Sunday evening the right hand of fellowship was given to twenty-two, five of these were baptized before and six come in by letter from other churches. Twenty-five have been added to the church since Feb.

J. B. GANONG.

Special meetings are being ROLLING DAM, held here by Rev. H. D. CHARLOTTE CO. Worden, our pastor, with good results. Souls are coming to Jesus, some 19 souls have taken their stand through God's grace and others are coming strong under conviction and yielding to the loving Saviour. We are having good sound preaching, with spiritual power through our pastor here, and the Lord is blessing our labors as pastor and church unite their efforts together. There will be a baptism it is expected here next Sabbath. Some will not unite for the present because of going away, but will in the future at their return. Our church has been revived considerably and faith increased and love has seemed to have grown to a greater degree. Methodists and Presbyterians and Church people and some Catholics are being awakened here through our pastor's preaching. The Lord is blessing us. Praise his name. W. C. HEWITT, Clerk.

Let no man or woman for the sake of a paltry amusement venture within arm's length of a temptation.