

INTRODUCTION.

GOD'S patent of nobility is a disposition to search the sacred Scriptures. It is written of the Bereans: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so," Acts 17:11. They did not merely read the Old Testament occasionally, but they searched it, or as the word means, they examined it closely, they sifted it, they scrutinized it, they scanned it, remembering the promise to every one who desires heavenly wisdom: "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God," Prov. 2:3-5. The honor thus attained outlasts all earthly distinctions, marking the high character and immortal dignity of God's noblemen,

"When gems, and monuments, and crowns,
Are mouldered down to dust."

It is a pleasure, therefore, to call the attention of believers to this book of Evangelist Wolfe, as "a work of faith, and labor of love," undertaken to exalt "the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever," 1 Pet. 1:23-25. It is a book that must be most helpful to all who would become better acquainted with "the first principles of the oracles of God," for it sets forth in Scriptural and simple language the great facts of Ruin, Redemption, Regeneration and Resurrection, together with kindred truths that cannot fail to be stimulating and suggestive to souls subject to the authority of the Holy Spirit. Hence it should be hailed with joy among similar books, appearing in these last and evil days, and prepared with the same purpose, to glorify our risen and coming Lord.

The title, "Gold from Ophir," reminds us of the different words that are translated *gold* in the Bible. The first is *betser*, and it signifies "to cut off," then "inaccessible, fortified, strong." "Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.... Then shalt thou lay up gold, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brook. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence," Job 22:22-25. Here the word *gold* in verse 24 is precisely the same that is rendered *defence* in verse 25; and so, if a man gets the gold of God's word not only in his mind, but in his heart, he is defended against dangers.