

ter—in this respect, that an examination is very expensive. If any one will consider what an efficient system of annual examinations for all the schools in Great Britain would cost, and consider, on the other hand, what good educational work—actual teaching work—might be done by spending the same amount of money on more teachers and more apparatus, I think they will be disposed to agree that it is desirable to be as economical as can be in the matter of examinations, provided, of course, we do not pass that point which is necessary for proper efficiency. — *Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc.*

THE BIBLE.—“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” As they have lived and wrought, so they will live and work. From the teacher’s chair and from the pastor’s pulpit: in the humblest hymn that ever mounted to the ear of God from beneath a cottage roof, and in the rich melodious choir of the noblest cathedral, “their sound is gone out into all lands and their words unto the end of the earth.” Nor here alone, but in a thousand silent and unsuspected forms will they unweariedly prosecute their holy office. Who doubts that times after number, particular portions of Scripture find their way to the human soul as if embassies from on high, each with its own commission of comfort, of guidance, or of warning? What crisis, what trouble, what perplexity of life, has failed, or can fail, to draw from this inexhaustible treasure-house its proper supply? What profession, what position is not daily and hourly enriched by these words, which repetitions never weaken, which carry with them now, as in the days of their first utterance, the freshness of youth and immortality? When the solitary student opens all his heart to drink them in, they will reward his toil. And in forms yet

more hidden and withdrawn, in the retirement of the chamber, in the stillness of the night season, upon the bed of sickness, and in the face of death, the Bible will be there, its several words how often winged with their several and special messages, to uplift and uphold, to invigorate and stir. Nay, more, perhaps, than this; amid the crowds of court, or in the forum, or in the street, or in the market-place, when every thought of every soul seems to bent on the excitements of ambition, or of business, or of pleasure, there, too, even there, “the still small voice” of the Bible will be heard, and the soul, aided by some blessed word, may find wings like a dove, may flee away and be at rest. — *W. E. Gladstone.*

At the last Edinburgh graduation, Professor Prothero made an excellent speech on the character and value of a liberal education. He pointed out that professional education generally ceased to be liberal in proportion as it became practical. “The special instruction which fitted a student for the Church, the Bar, Medicine, and Education, in so far as it was limited or specialized in its aim—in so far as it conduced to success and distinction in a certain walk of life—was not liberal. He did not say that professional education was better or worse than liberal, but it was not the same.” The distinction is often lost sight of in this exceptionally practical age. If it were not for the rapid development of our Universities, side by side with the exclusively technical and scientific institutions, we might well despond over the future of liberal education and the decay of the humanities. Not that the scientific and the technical are of necessity divorced from liberal culture, for, as Mr. Prothero says, the mind that has habitually fed upon what is worthiest in science and literature acquires a combined firmness and sensitiveness,