

We believe James Blaine introduced in our Congress the proposition that all differences between the American Republics be settled by arbitration, and that some, if not all of them, acceded to it. If we remember rightly, a deputation was sent from Parliament to this country to consult with our President and Cabinet with reference to this subject, that all difficulties between us should be settled by arbitration. England and the United States, both speaking the same language, and trading at the same ports, are more likely to have differences arise than most other nations, excepting France and Germany, each of which lay armed across a river. Thus arbitration by disinterested parties, or with reference to an International Court may be said to be fairly launched in the world, and "must commend itself more and more to the conscience of mankind."

E. AVERILL.

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### THE BIBLE.

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"What a book!" exclaimed Heine, after a day spent in its study. "What a book! vast and wide as the world, rooted in the abysses of creation, and towering up beyond the blue secrets of heaven! Sunrise and sunset, promise and fulfillment, birth and death, the whole drama of humanity all in one book! In Goethe's Conversations you may find this verdict: "Let mental culture go on advancing, let the natural sciences go on gaining in breadth and depth, and the human mind expand as it may, they will never go beyond the elevation and moral culture of Christianity, as it glistens and shines forth in the Gospel."

To all who desire to honor the Bible the way is open: obey it. Learn to love its spirit, not idolize its letter. It has been given to us from God, not to supersede that greatest of earthly blessings—the necessity of labor and of thought, but to recall to us what no labor and no thought could otherwise

have ascertained. It assures us of the illimitable love of the Eternal. It manifests that love in Jesus Christ. Professor Huxley says: "I know not how the religious feeling, which is the essential base of conduct, can be kept up without the use of the Bible. For three centuries it has been woven into the life of all that is best and noblest in English history. . . . By the study of what other book could children be so made to feel that each figure in the great procession of the past fills, like ourselves, but a momentary interspace in the interval between two eternities, and earns the blessings or the curses of all time according to its efforts to do good and hate evil."—*From the "Word and the Way," by William Leighton Grange.*

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### WORSHIP AND INSPIRATION.

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From the first dawn of man's history, as far as traceable, the Spirit of God has spoken to him and he to the Spirit. The very first act of the world's worship was in response to the Spirit's call. That call may come through inarticulate nature, articulate prophecy, or the mysterious pulsations of one's own heart. But no true worship is possible except when God breathes into man. Worship is the satisfaction of a craving appetite of the soul. It is not a discipline, it is not a routine, it is a sore need felt. It is sometimes an unconscious act. God inspires the feelings to devotional tenderness, intensifies also the love of fellow-worshippers. . . . No true worship is possible without inspiration, no true sense of the divine nearness and personality is possible without inspiration. The magnetic touch of the Spirit draws out man to an infinite search of his secrets, to infinite self-improvement and aspiration. There is a unity in man with himself in his highest and lowest moods, there is also unity with God. He created us in His own image, and it is profoundly true that *when we are truly*