

tion with critical exactness, we might easily find a light or a dark shade of difference, arising, at least in part, from the "helps and governments," and the "notes and commentaries," which some good protestants as well as Catholics require, in addition to the pure word. But still the great question is conceded, that the bible is the only inspired Book—the only Book which conveys to mortals the mind of God—the Book alone which guides the soul unerringly to bliss—the Book, in short, which heaven has bestowed to raise men higher than the skies, and give them a place among the inhabitants who inherit glory. All appear to quote with admiration the lines of the poet,—

"Hast thou ever heard
Of such a Book? The author, God himself;
The subject, God and man, salvation, life,
And death—eternal life, eternal death—
Great words! whose meaning has no end, no bounds."

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"By prophets, seers, priests, and sacred bards,
Evangelists, apostles, men inspired,
And by the Holy Ghost, anointed, set
Apart, and consecrated to declare
'To earth the counsels of th' Eternal One,
'This Book, this holiest, this sublimest Book,
Was sent."

To this sentiment there is a universal response, all uniting in consenting to its truth. We therefore dismiss these two questions, which relate to the use of bibles, and our supply of them; and immediately proceed to concentrate our thoughts upon the question, Are we using our bibles in accordance with our own sense of their value? This, we regard, as a query of greater importance, and of more practical service, than either of the preceding.

So far as we are acquainted, whatever may be the practice of the "men of this generation," no one professedly relies upon the simple possession of a bible for the knowledge, faith, and spiritual blessings only secured by its faithful perusal. At least if such an instance were to be discovered, it would be regarded as a rarity of unparalleled occurrence. A bible upon the shelf, in the book-case, on the table, or wrapped up as a keep-sake and deposited in some private crevice, must be considered as a very different thing from a daily use of the Book in the hands of one who knows its worth, and who resolves by pondering its pages to prove the reality of its treasures. Speak we of valuing the bible? What can we mean? Give a few shillings or a few dollars for a finely printed copy, placing it safely and carefully as an ornament,