

standing with Moses and receiving the tablets from the hand of God Himself, or standing with John and looking with open countenance into the very bosom of the Heavenly Glory, as it flames and revels around him—we are to take care lest, even there, we interpose some worldly objection, some difficulty, some question—something to be settled, something to be discussed. My friends there is nothing to be discussed when the soul of man comes in contact with God's word. There is nothing to be settled when the sinner comes within the sound of the voice of the Saviour. The one point that is there to be considered is simply this : Will you have this Saviour to be your Saviour ? will you have this book to be your guide, in whatever language, by whomsoever rendered, by whomsoever transmitted, by whomsoever handed forth ? It is not the person that gives authority to the book ; it is the book that gives authority to the person. It is not the constituting of persons within a certain régime, making them what you call the Church, that gives them the right to transmit and teach this sacred book. It is the giving of that very book to men, that confers the right to teach. Now, then, this Book of God the Bible Society adopts with the simple declaration, *Credo* ; and we go not beneath or beyond it. We lay our hand on that wondrous book and say, It is God's book, and divine ; it comes from heaven to man—with just as much confidence as if we were standing with Moses on Sinai, or having our arms locked with John as he looked from Patmos up into the cave of eternal light and glory.

No, my friends, we cannot go outside of our great purpose and plan, to attend to those mere questions of external difficulties. There are no difficulties in the way of the man that seeks the Saviour, and seeks Him in His Bible. He finds there salvation ; saying like the poor woman of Samaria, "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did : is not this the Christ ?" I say, then, very frankly, that we cannot let our view of Bible truth and beauty be in the least degree disturbed. What care we for all the opprobrious, tantalizing objections of men of every description upon the whole face of the earth ? What are they but mere insects upon the floor of the Lord's compassion and forbearance ? The dust which the Divine breathing may have permitted to fall on the floor of the tabernacle ? We sweep them out.

If a man says, "I cannot believe your Bible, sir"—so much the worse for you, sir. If a man says, "I cannot receive your Bible upon any testimony that you have given me, sir," I say, "Then go to the Holy Ghost who inspired it, and ask humbly, simply, thankfully of Him, and He will write it upon the record of your heart, in letters that will never fade beneath the power of persecution, nor be washed away by all the rivers and streams of sorrow and distress. Bind it *there*, sir, and you will bind it as your companion for an eternal home and for an everlasting recompense." Our fathers understood this. The men of other generations were Bible men. We had not sunk in those quagmires of discussion. We had not gone down into those miserable partisan questions about churches. I do not care for all the churches on the face of the earth, in comparison with the importance of the Bible, the word of God. The Church is but the garment with which I am clothed ; the Bible is the heart and soul that lives for ever within me ; and the difference is immense and most important.

Now, our fathers sent us out in this great Bible work with these three great facts : We give you the word of the living God. God gave it. We tell you to carry it to every living man. Every living man has a right to it and to his own interpretation of it. We tell you to associate yourselves with all the power and ability that you can combine and create, and carry it forth until the whole earth shall feel its power, the whole world shall rejoice in its fulness, and all the angels in heaven shall sing, "Amen, glory to God on high ; glory, glory to God for ever." This is our simple work, and with the fulfilment of this work we go forward.

Mr. President, I congratulate the West that this glorious work of ours has