

equipped for the sphere of life which we are called upon to fill, or fail of glory and honour and immortality, it is because we are living in neglect of the doctrines of the word of God and in defiance of its precepts. The Lord has given us a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; and if we stumble and fall, it is because we shut our eyes against the light of divine truth.

Yes, brethren, the word of God is a spiritual bed on which men can rest and stretch themselves to their full length. They will find in it all they need in the way of stimulus to mental activity and motive for action. There is infinite variety in its teachings, sufficient to keep the mind, which is always intent upon novelties, constantly interested; the most earnest and diligent student finding ever new matter for thought and enquiry in the volume of Revelation. More has been written to illustrate and enforce the statements of the Bible than those of all the other treatises in the world together—and it shows how inexhaustible its treasures for wisdom and knowledge are, that new books are every day issuing from the press, bringing some fresh fact or view to light in regard to its utterances. The Bible is a well-spring of life to all that love it. It is a constant source of inspiration to those who ponder its lessons. It supplies what was specially needed for the intellectual, moral and spiritual development of the human family.

2. But we must not only have a right kind of bed for stretching ourselves on—it is needful in addition that we have a covering wide enough and ample enough to go all round us.

Here there are two considerations bearing upon the case—the quality of the covering, and its amount. Linen does well enough in a warm country, but the Indian and Esquimaux find that nothing but skins will suffice for their comfort, while we are well enough off with blankets, the manufactured hair of animals.

And so the quality of the religious belief men entertain has to be taken into account, as well as the quantity or degree.

Thus tested, the Gospel furnishes us with the quality of religion that suits the exigencies of our situation. What effect has it produced on all the nations that have come fully under its influence? Let us consult history for the answer. There have been nearly nineteen hundred years in which the effects of the Gospel have been seen—a period sufficient to have afforded full proof of the scope and influence of the religion of Jesus Christ. What then has it done for the nations of the earth? Let Archdeacon Farrar answer:—