

clergyman now in Paradise; he used to say, "The Bible and prayer will do anything." And his words were very true—they came from his heart. "The Bible and prayer will do anything."

Let me next mention the personal use to which we should put the Bible, as being the great instrument by which God the Spirit works; how reverentially and gladly we should study it! I would just remind you, as a duty as well as a pleasure, what a great layman prophet God has recently raised up among us, guided by a wonderful pathway to the paradise of God, and how great a message he brought to us from God. The message was to study God's Word, and the layman prophet was General Gordon. Just look at his letters to his sister, and see the position which he gives to the Word of God. It is wonderful how he delighted in it, how he exalted it, and how he exhorted his brother men to follow the selfsame study that gave him such joy. His own Bible is among the treasures in Windsor Castle, and I do not doubt that our dear mother the Queen values that more than any other treasure that is there. It was given to the Queen by General Gordon's sister after his death—a Bible practically worn out by use. There it is, under a glass case, scored and interlined and worn out by the noble man's hand. I dare say that he had washed it with his tears many a time. Let us try to learn the lesson that wonderful man has left, and try to study the Bible more than ever.

Well, then, the Bible being what it is, how it is our duty to spread it through the world! This Society is engaged in carrying on this work. As to circulating the Bible, I want to remind you how reverentially we should do it, as a religious act, and with prayer. I heard one say that the Bible Society is only a bookselling establishment. Well, of course it is a bookselling establishment; but what a book! The gift, I say again, of God the Holy Ghost, and the instrument of God's Holy Spirit working as well. I say, let all our work be done as it has been done in the past, especially in the Society's early dawn, with a most reverential and believing and praying spirit. Do you remember, my friends, how when miracles were done what a great reverence there was, especially when any life-restoring work was being performed? At the raising of the widow's son and of Lazarus, how solemn it is! And then at the raising of Jairus' daughter, only Christ and the apostles were to be there; and there was to be silence when the life-restoring work was to be done. And we have a life-giving work to do by means of this great Society and the distribution of the Word of God. And then, carrying on the Bible Society's work in prayer, what a world-wide intercession we should be continually carrying on! Look at the wonderful work at home. It would please you to know how the workmen of Staffordshire are caring for the living Word of God. Then there is the work in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland, and that wonderful Russia, and in Turkey, Egypt, and all the wondrous tribes in the cradle of our race in Central Asia, in all those regions with which Dr. Lansdell has made many of us familiar. Then come India, China, and Japan, and America, from the Esquimaux in the north to Tierra del Fuego in the south, and Australia. If we are really mingling prayer with the work of the Bible Society—if, as I think we may do, we are making the Bible Society's Report an intercessory text book—I say we shall be praying and interceding for the whole world, and ensuring a mighty blessing for the world, and doing more to hasten the kingdom of Christ than we could do in any other way.

And how grateful we should be to all the Bible Society's workers! They are workers who enable us, as an ancestor of mine said eighty years ago, to lengthen our arms and by God's mercy to bless mankind. Think of the workers to whom you ought to be so grateful, and I am sure I must not omit the President of the Society. His work is to him a great joy. Then the secretaries, with all their labour, and those good men the workers in the