

ture they have the Divine approbation stamped upon them.

The Scriptures also contain many speeches of uninspired men; for instance, the speeches of Job's comforters, of Ben-hadad, of Rabshakeh, of Tertullus, and even of Satan—in many cases containing unsound reasoning and false philosophy. All that can be said of these is, that it pleased God that they should be recorded and handed down to our times. Hence, because a sentiment is expressed in the Word of God we are not always to agree with it. We must discover by whom it was first uttered before we give it weight. But besides the sayings of uninspired men, and the records it has pleased God to preserve to us in His Word, all of which are for our learning, we have also God himself speaking to us through men who were inspired in the highest sense of the term, for "the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Bible, then, as a whole, may be regarded as God's book—most of it coming directly from Himself, the rest gathered up from various sources under His direction. In a certain sense it is all inspired; that is, there is nothing in it but what God intended should be in it; yet it is not all equally inspired. It is the spiritual food which God has provided for his people, and like that food—the quails and the manna—with which he fed ancient Israel in the desert, part has been furnished by him from earth, and part has been sent direct from heaven. It is the great Book human and divine. It contains all that man in this world will ever know of the unseen and eternal state. It is the only lamp that has been given for our feet, and the only light that we will ever have for our path. And if we are wise for ourselves, we will take it as it is, and while we thank God for his gift, diligently lay up its pre-

cepts in our hearts and practice them in our lives. It is not only the best book in the day of health but it is the best in the hour of death, and the only one that affords consolation and comfort then. The weary and the heavy laden have ever found in it sweet consolation for their souls. It has been the guiding star of the world from the hoar antiquity, and long after ours and unborn generations shall have been forgotten, it will still be the Book of books. It originated away back on the dim horizon of time, and it shall see out the ages yet to come. When the trumpet sounds earth's funeral knell, the Bible shall in that hour be the great Book, and beyond that too. It is the oldest and it will be the best. All other books are but of yesterday compared with the age of the Bible. Other books have been written and forgotten, while the Bible lives on. Empires the mightiest have risen and passed away, but the Bible remains amongst those things which cannot be shaken. The production and preservation of the Bible is the greatest literary mystery that the world has ever seen, and there is only one solution to this mystery. It is no tissue of fables, but the Word of the Lord—the truth most sure—eternal as its God.

"Most wondrous book! bright candle of the Lord!
Star of eternity; the only star
By which the bark of man could navigate
The sea of life, and gain the coast of bliss
Securely; only star which rose on Time,
And, on its dark and troubled billows still,
As generation, drifting swiftly by,
Succeeded generation, threw a ray
Of heaven's own light; and to the hills of God,
The everlasting hills pointed the sinner's eye."

X. Y. Z.

The bee stores her hive out of all sorts of flowers for the common benefit; so a heavenly Christian sucks sweetness out of every mercy and every duty, out of every providence and every ordinance, out of every promise and every privilege, that he may give out the more sweetness to others. —Brooks.