

full result of that scene is known only to God. One thing is certain, the infidel was seen to frequent the house of prayer, and we may be sure that he afterwards believed there is some power in the Gospel, and that all Christians are not hypocrites.—*The Christian*.

GLADSTONE ON THE BIBLE.

In a passage of great eloquence and beauty, taken from his "Introduction to the People's Bible," Mr. Gladstone thus speaks:

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." As they have lived and wrought, so they will live and work. From the teacher's chair and from the pastor's pulpit; in the humblest hymn that ever mounted to the ear of God from beneath a cottage roof, and in the rich, melodious choir of the noblest cathedral, "their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world." Nor here alone, but in a thousand silent and unsuspected forms, will they unweariedly prosecute their holy office. Who doubts that, times without number, particular portions of Scripture find their way to the human soul as if embassies from on high, each with its own commission of comfort, of guidance, or of warning? What crisis, what trouble, what perplexity of life has failed or can fail to draw from this inexhaustible treasure-house its proper supply? What profession, what position, is not daily and hourly enriched by these words which repetition never weakens, which carry with them now, as in the days of their first utterance, the freshness of youth and immortality? When the solitary student opens all his heart to drink them in, they will reward his toil. And in forms yet more hidden and withdrawn, in the retirement of the chamber, in the stillness of the night season, upon the bed of sickness, and in the face of death the Bible will be there, its several words how often winged with their several and special messages to heal and to soothe, to uplift and uphold, to invigorate and stir. Nay, more, perhaps, than this; amid the crowds of the court, or the forum, or the street, or the

market place, when every thought of every soul seems to be set upon the excitements of ambition, or of business, or of pleasure, there, too, even there, the still small voice of the Holy Bible will be heard, and the soul, aided by some blessed word, may find wings like a dove, may flee away and be at rest."—*Selected*.

UP AND BE DOING.

How many young men are drifting and dawdling and wasting away their lives, sucking cigars and cane-heads, eating bread which others earn, and wearing clothes for which they have never paid. And yet these men have lived long enough to have made their mark in the world's history, and to have accomplished grand things for God and humanity. Much of the important work of the world is done by young men; much of it is done by old men; but these triflers will never do anything either in youth or old age. At the age of forty Robert Bruce defeated the English at Bannockburn. At twenty-seven William Pitt was Prime Minister of Great Britain. W. E. Gladstone was in parliament at the age of twenty-two. At twenty-two George Washington was a colonel. At forty-three he commanded the revolutionary army, and at fifty-seven was President of the United States. Martin Luther was prominent when he was twenty-four years old, had finished his life work largely at forty-six, and died at the age of sixty-two. John Calvin before he was thirty years old had done work which placed his name among the great men of earth. Others to-day are doing in early life work which will endure forever.

Young man, wake up! Throw away your cigar, shake off your slumbers. Have done with dawdling and fooling. Be a man as God intended you should, and make up your mind to do something that shall bless and benefit the world. You may not be called to high position—you certainly will not be until you learn to fill a low position with fidelity and with energy—but if you will seek the kingdom of God, and turn from sin and folly and vain doing, you will not spend your

strength for naught; and sometime, in youth or in maturer life, your opportunity will come, and it will be seen that you have not laboured in vain, that your life has not been a failure. If you have conquered a forest, if you have ploughed a field, if you have planted a tree, if you have builded a house, if you have taught a child the elements of earthly knowledge, or the way of life and salvation, in these ways you may have done a work for God and for humanity which will live through the ages and will be remembered by Him who shall give at last to "every man according as his work shall be."

Do not sit down idly and wait for opportunities. There is an opportunity to do something to-day, to do it well, to do it in the fear of God; and if you will do the duties of to-day, and fill its hours with faithful and zealous endeavour, tomorrow will bring new duties, new privileges, new blessings, and in time or in eternity your reward will be sure.—*Christian*.

DO YOU READ THE BIBLE?

All things duly considered, the Bible is the cheapest and best circulated book in the world. Every man may have a copy for the asking. Now, there was a day when men prized this right as their dearest possession. They read their Bibles, and they read very little else. They knew the contents so thoroughly that even their everyday speech was coloured with its grand phraseology. To the Puritans of the seventeenth century the Bible was history, and poetry, and adventure, and practical teaching, and literature in general, as well as religious instruction. What the newspaper, the magazine, and the novel together are to us Scripture was to them. The Old Testament was as carefully read as the New—indeed, very much better, as many have pointed out.

What a change has come over the Protestant world in our time! It is not a Bible-reading world as it used to be. The right to read Scripture may be still emphasized, but great multitudes neither appreciate it nor take advantage of it.