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### THE BIBLE AND EDUCATION.

*The Bible is indispensable as a book of literature.*

Look at it as a *history*. It carries us back to the first dawn of time, to the first rising of the sun, to the infancy of the first man. For two thousand years it bears us along the stream of time ; in a compressed but comprehensive manner revealing to us the principal events which occurred in the early history of our race. Blot out from existence the book of Genesis, and what reliable knowledge have we of remote antiquity ? Traditions cannot furnish it. Monuments cannot reveal it. Ruins cannot tell it. What are the antiquities of Egypt and Nineveh ? What are the legends of India and China ? Can we depend upon information obtained from them ? Only so far as they correspond with the sacred narrative. What are the writings of Philo and Josephus ? Can they be accredited ? Only as lesser lights, so far as they reflect the brighter glory.

And this history, the first link in the long chain, is the foundation of all subsequent records. Here we see the root from which the tree, now large, but still branching out, has grown. Here we read of the rise and progress, the ruin and fall, of Egypt, Chaldea, Persia, Babylon ; as well as the entire history of the Jewish nation, which is regarded by many as the parent nation of the world, and from which, no doubt, civilization, science, and religion began their course. Can we overestimate the importance of this the earliest history ? Would not the most complete education, without the knowledge of this, be wretchedly defective ?