

disciples who were backward in proclaiming their confidence in His Word, and were really a literal fulfilment of His prophecy. On that first Palm Sunday, when they were asking him to rebuke His disciples for ascribing to Him the glory which they were then ascribing to Him, the Lord said: "If these should hold their peace the stones would cry out immediately." I think, perhaps, because God's people and God's disciples were holding their peace too much regarding higher criticism, and regarding the skepticism that was put forward, that then, perhaps, at that very opportune time those stones have cried out and testified to the literal truth of the Word of God, and to the correctness of the record as we find it there. (Applause.) Now, Mr. Chairman, I must say that I am very little troubled, perhaps because as a practical man I am too much engrossed by the practical affairs of this life to give, perhaps, such time to some of these fine theories that seem to disturb some of the scholars who give more time, and who ought to be a great deal more competent to pass upon such a subject as this than I am. But I must say, that looking at it from a practical point of view, and looking at it from a historical point of view, and thinking how these difficulties that have come up in my own time, and in former times, have seemed one after the other to pass away, leaving the Word of God more firmly and more strongly entrenched than ever, I, for one, have little fear, and can pin my faith to the good old Book more firmly and strongly than I ever was able to do in any past time. (Applause.) And I am a believer in this, that the Book is today influencing the thought and activities of this world as it never did before. (Hear, hear.) I believe that book is being studied as it never was before. The fact of the circulation of these millions and tens of millions of copies would lead us to believe that these books are doing something, and are being read and studied. They would not be bought, and they would not be circulated if there was not a demand for them; and I believe they are leavening these nations, leavening especially Protestant nations, leavening especially the English-speaking nations, as they never did at any previous time; and I believe at the bottom and at the foundation there does exist in the people of those countries a confidence in the Word of God, and also the knowledge of it. I know that there are some good people who will differ from me, who think the former times were better than these. Well, now, it is generally said that when one takes up that parable and speaks of the good old times, that they are getting old themselves. Well, that is one of the signs of age that I do not envy, and I hope will not overtake me for some time yet. When I hear those good people speak about the good old times and decrying the present ones with regard to most of the things which I know, I feel like using the enquiry and saying: "Say not thou that the former times were better than these, for thou does not enquire wisely concerning these things." Now, as to the circulation of the Word of God, I believe that it is more generally circulated, and that the Bible is more generally studied, and is having a very much larger influence upon the thought and activity of the world than it did at any previous time, and there is one single circumstance—and, as a Sunday-school worker, I will simply refer to that one single circumstance—that I think is doing more than perhaps most of us, without reflection, would imagine, to increase the study in this respect of the Word of God; I refer to the single agency of the International Lesson System that is now used by such a large portion of the Sunday-schools of the world. I suppose that according to the