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THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE IN A COURSE OF EDUCATION.

The following extract is taken from the Baccalaureate Sermon of President Bartlett, of Dartmouth College, delivered before the last graduating class of that institution.

And the volume that contains and transmits this mighty agency, the volume that the world knows as *the Book*, the BIBLE—what good reason can be given why in a course of education it should be kept out of sight, thrust into a corner, or treated otherwise than with that conspicuous honour which its central position in the world's literature requires? In its contents, its circulation, its moral influence, and its intellectual stimulus, it is confessedly without a rival. No volume has so secured, or so endured, translation into the languages of the earth. No volume has ever so spoken to every age, class, and condition. No volume has been so centrally and vitally related to human thought and human achievement. No other volume so absolutely refuses to grow old. Intellectually, its contents are of commanding excellence. It antedates, and by some thousand years anticipates, all other history. One chapter in Genesis contains a record of the early nations which all the nations together could not supply—"the most learned among all ancient documents," says Bunsen, "and the most ancient among the learned." The famous Chaldean account of the Deluge, with its garrulousness, its seven days' duration, and its frightened gods crouching "like dogs" in the heavens, seems absurd beside our sober narrative. The migration of Abram from Ur of the Chaldees was a more momentous event than the fabled voyage of Alectes or the colonizing of Carthage. In comparison with the Exodus, the Anabasis was a trivial incident. Joshua's subjugation of Canaan was a great military movement, fraught with more far-reaching consequences than the Norman conquest. Jerusalem, the city of twenty-seven sieges, has as weird a history as any other city on the globe, and the Jewish race a vitality unparalleled and unique. The Galilean Sea but thirteen miles in length, has witnessed events more marvellous than the great and classic Mediterranean. What