

if we are to credit our Bible Society Reports, and certainly there is no reason to reject their statements, we have the alarming fact before us that only one in every sixteen persons has the entire bible, and only one in every eight who has a copy even of the New Testament! which proves, that, even if there be a full supply of the scriptures printed, there is an important blank in their circulation.

Unquestionably this limited distribution of the good book arises from an imperfect estimation of its worth; and again this meagre estimate of it arises from the fact that it is not read or studied; and hence the cardinal import of the great query of all the queries, *Shall we in practice improve in bible reading?* But then the question may be rebounded upon us, Who will give himself up to the perusal of a book, the value of which he has yet to learn? Let us admit all that is implied in this question, and what follows?—that we cannot consistently advance in the reading of the bible until its value be more fully known? This does not fairly follow; for in theory we already place a higher value upon the bible, than we are willing to acknowledge in the reality of practice. If, then, we are not using the book according to our present voluntary acknowledgement of its worth, consistency dictates that we should immediately extend the circle of our practice to the same compass as our theory.

And this, in the meantime, is all that we can rationally desire; for if every professor was to peruse the bible according to his own sense of its treasure and grace, he would soon become additionally impressed with its true worth, and would engage in the reading of it accordingly.

May we ask, then, in the name of all, what shall be our practice in time to come? Let us, at once, each for himself, resolve and say with the simple-minded and great Dr. Watt,

“Then let me love my bible more,
And take a fresh delight—
By day to read these wonders o’er
And meditate at night.”

A few thoughts more by way of a third lesson may yet be expected.

CONDUCTOR.

From the Christian Magazine.

SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.

AGAIN we ask, What are we doing for the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are we interested in, or indifferent to, the situation of those who are living in ignorance and in alienation from God? Other