

the conviction that the Bible contains the word of God, and that what we have not been able to understand will be hereafter made intelligible.

But now, having acquired the apprehension of the natural human life, in its relation to the ideal world, as having an educational purpose as its especial characteristic, we find we have thereby acquired a new point of view from which to survey and consider the relations of God's revelation of Himself in the Bible, to the circumstances and conditions of our natural life. For if education be the main and especial purpose of our human lives, then, what characteristic purpose is the Bible, as a revelation addressed to human beings, likely to have? This: To explain the manner in which the training or educational progress is to be conducted: to point out the difficulties and direct us in following the proper course; to encourage and assure us of spiritual assistance in the endeavour to follow the right course; to caution us as to the danger of wasting our lives or misapplying them to base purposes. It at once suggests itself as extremely probable that the Book will be found to possess the characteristics of a highly intellectual work: a book expressly addressed to the educated intellect of intelligent beings.

Let us in this light—that is, not in a spirit of critical doubt, but in a spirit of reverential belief in it, as a work of supreme Wisdom, open the book again at the commencement, and (for the present very briefly) consider the general character and apparent purpose of the first chapters.

What is it those primary chapters, with their