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The Importance of the Bible in Intellectual Culture.

BY REV. J. T. SUNDERLAND, M. A.

(Toronto World.)

In my last article I called attention to the surprising lack of knowledge of the Bible which is found all around us, even among otherwise intelligent and well educated men and women. Entirely aside from moral and religious considerations, this want of knowledge of the greatest book we possess is a serious matter.

It is the judgment of the best critics of the world that the Bible deserves a very high place as a collection of literature, entirely aside from its merits in other directions. There is no lack of competent judges who rank certain portions of it with the best literary productions of any nation; for example, the Psalms with the lyrics of Pindar and Wordsworth; the Book of Job with the tragedies of Aeschylus and Shakespeare; the Book of Isaiah and the Epistle to the Romans with any religious of ethereal writing of any age. Now, if this estimate be correct, we see at once that study of the Bible ought to have a prominent place in literary culture.

But the Bible is not only a great classic, it is virtually a great English classic. It was translated so early into the vernacular of the English people, and became so soon the one great book of all classes, that it has had an influence in moulding the English tongue vastly greater than any other volume. We may almost say that the English language of today is formed on the basis of King James' translation of the Bible of 1611. I suppose there is no other book which the English-speaking scholars of the world would fix upon with a title of the unamity, as a model of simple, terse, vigorous and at the same time elegant English, with which they would fix upon our common English Bible. If this be true, it is surely a strong argument for familiar acquaintance with the Bible on the part of all English-speaking people who care for a mastery of their own language.

But the Bible is not only a volume containing much noble literature, and literature which it presents to us in a style which is our best "well of English undefiled," but it is also a book which in ways more numerous and vital than we can well understand weaves itself into the whole fabric of our civilization. We sometimes say that everybody who makes any pretensions to culture at all should read Shakespeare, if for no other reason than that he may be able to understand the numerous quotations from the great dramatist, and the still more numerous allusions to his characters and scenes, with which literature since his day abounds. But if with good reason we may say this of Shakespeare, much more may we say it of the Bible. Not only is English literature of every grade and kind far more full of references to the Bible than to any other book, but the same is true of the literature of all Christian nations. I doubt whether a man voyaging through the ocean of modern European and American literature, I care not of what language, would find himself so much inconvenienced by being unacquainted with Homer, Plato, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe and enough others to make a round dozen of the greatest writers of the world, as he would by being unacquainted with this single volume. Thus we see that a familiar acquaintance with the Bible is simply indispensable as a part of every adequate or complete literary education.

But it is no less important as a part of art education. Go through the great art galleries of the world, and you find that the art of some whole ages, and very productive ages, is almost exclusively occupied with Bible themes. In music, too, the Bible has almost as central a place as in painting and sculpture. Scarcely less is to be said of philosophy, history, law, government and institutions of all kinds. It is not too much to say that there is probably not a nation of Europe or America which has had a literary, artistic, social or political development (not to

mention religion or religious development) at all what it would have been if the Bible had not been written. The rise of the Christian religion has changed the face of half the world, and is fast changing the face of the other half. How, then, can any one expect to be able to understand in any deep or adequate way either the past or present, without understanding the Bible?

For all these reasons I urge a knowledge of the Bible as a simply indispensable part of the mental furnishing of every intelligent person. I do not see how any man or woman can claim even to be respectably educated, who has not an intelligent acquaintance with this greatest and most influential book of our civilization.

These considerations lay heavy obligations upon parents. Even if parents care nothing about religion, it is difficult to understand how they can do a more shortsighted thing than to neglect to make provision for the intelligent instruction of their children in the Bible. To fail here is to leave at the very centre of their intellectual culture a vast blank, which, unless it be made good in future years, as it probably will not be, they will feel deeply and painfully all their lives.

Unsightly and Foul Diseases Arising from Impure and Poisoned Blood Are Quickly Cured.

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A Cured Man Says: "It Would Mean the Use of Pages to Tell One Half of What Paine's Celery Compound Has Done for Me."

The great and noble genius, Professor Edward E. Phelps, M. D., LL. D., the discoverer of Paine's Celery Compound spent years in perfecting his prescription before he gave it to a world of suffering and disease. Years of severe tests and tens of thousands precious lives saved, have all combined to make Paine's Celery Compound the present day popular family medicine.

Paine's Celery Compound has triumphed over numberless cases of foul and deep-seated blood diseases. It effectually cleanses the blood, braces the weak nerves, builds up flesh and a constitution capable of resisting sickness and disease. Mr. A. E. Hammond, Mansenville, P. Q., cured by Paine's Celery Compound, writes thus:

"Some five years ago it was my sad misfortune to be afflicted with scrofula sores, of which I had five on one leg and three on the other. These were running sores for four years. In addition to this I was taken down with rheumatism in the small of my back so badly that I could not get off my bed; and to further intensify my sufferings, I had sick headache in the worst form.

"While in this condition, a friend of mine, Mr. Perkins, a merchant of this place, sold me a bottle of Paine's Celery Compound, with the express understanding that if it did me no good I should pay nothing for it.

"In accepting this offer, I had no idea of ever feeling under any obligation to pay for the Compound, as I had no faith in its doing me good. To my very great surprise, however, I grew better; and by the time I had used three bottles I was as well as ever, and what I never expected to see was realized, viz., the sores on my legs were entirely healed.

"It would mean the use of pages to tell one half of what Paine's Celery Compound has done for me. This marvellous cure has been in effect for nearly a year."

Benham—I believe in a personal devil. Mrs. Benham—Well, I'm glad you have one friend.

Hewitt—Do you ever go home when your drunk?

Jewett—My dear boy, when I'm drunk I'm liable to go anywhere.



It will work while you sleep, without a gripe or pain, curing Constipation, Biliousness, Sick Headache and Dyspepsia, and make you feel better in the morning.

Successor to Policy as Well as Possessions.

N. Y. Post: Who would have believed it possible, after reading the American denunciations of Spain's concentration policy in Cuba in 1897 and 1898, that within three years American generals would be applying it in the Philippines? Yet the unexpected has come to pass. In Samar the strictest orders have been given for the entire population of the island to concentrate in towns, accompanied by the threat that anyone found outside them will be shot or hung as an enemy of the American people. Any man who should have dared in 1898 to prophesy such a state of affairs, would have been denounced far and wide as a slanderer of the United States, and been informed that the American flag never had covered, and never would cover, such infamy. Now, however, the situation has changed, and it is almost impossible to get those newspapers which were most outspoken in their denunciations of Spanish misrule to discuss the situation in the Philippines. Upon the 7th of February next the war in the islands will enter upon its fourth year. How much longer will the American people consent to such a waste of treasure and blood? How much longer will they care to have their actions in the East cited by Mr. Chamberlain and his fellow-doers in South Africa as their excuse for concentration camps, for banishments, and for stamping out nationality?

Memories of Great Men.

(Prof. E. S. Holden in Harper's Magazine.)

Many of the greatest men have had phenomenal memories. Caesar knew the names of thousands of soldiers in his legions. A modern man of science often has a prodigious memory for special terminology. Prof. Asa Gray assured me that he could at once recall the names of something like 25,000 plants; Prof. Theodore Gill can do the same for fishes. Our memory for mere words is itself much more extensive than is generally admitted. The average well-to-do child of two years of age has a vocabulary of some 500 words, and its father may have the command of 20,000 more. The 10,000 verses of the Rig-Veda have, for 300 years, been accurately preserved in the memories of the Brahmins. Not one Brahmin alone, but thousands can today recite it word for word. Thousands of Mohammedans, likewise, know the Koran by heart, as all learned Chinese know their classic books. The chiefs of Polynesia can and do repeat hundreds of thousands of words in their genealogies—taking days, and even weeks, for the recitation.

Hundreds of pianists can play all day, and many days, by memory; and I have myself seen Von Buelow conduct Beethoven's Fifth Symphony without a score. Chess players have a visualizing memory; musicians have an auditive and a motor memory, while arithmetical prodigies may have any one of the three.

To cure a cold in a night—use Vapo-Cresolene. It has been used extensively during more than twenty-four years. All Druggists.

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Asthmalene Brings Instant Relief and Permanent Cure in All Cases.

SENT ABSOLUTELY FREE ON RECEIPT OF POSTAL.

WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY.



There is nothing like Asthmalene. It brings instant relief, even in the worst cases. It cures when all else fails.

The Rev. C. F. WELLS, of Villa Ridge, Ill., says: "Your trial bottle of Asthmalene received in good condition. I cannot tell you how thankful I feel for the good derived from it. I was a slave, chained with putrid sore throat and Asthma for ten years. I despaired of ever being cured. I saw your advertisement for the cure of this dreadful and tormenting disease, Asthma, and thought you had overspoken yourselves, but resolved to give it a trial. To my astonishment, the trial acted like a charm. Send me a full-size bottle."

Rev. Dr. Morris Wechsler, Rabbi of the Cong. Bnai Israel, New York, Jan 3, 1901.

DRS. TAFT BROS.' MEDICINE CO., Gentlemen: Your Asthmalene is an excellent remedy for Asthma and Hay Fever, and its composition alleviates all troubles which combine with Asthma. Its success is astonishing and wonderful. After having it carefully analyzed, we can state that Asthmalene contains no opium, morphine, chloroform or ether. Very truly yours, REV. DR. MORRIS WECHSLER.

AVON SPRINGS, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1901

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.

Gentlemen: I write this testimonial from a sense of duty, having tested the wonderful effect of your Asthmalene, for the cure of Asthma. My wife has been afflicted with spasmodic asthma for the past 12 years. Having exhausted my own skill as well as many others, I chanced to see your sign upon your windows on 130th street, New York, I at once obtained a bottle of Asthmalene. My wife commenced taking it about the first of November. I very soon noticed a radical improvement. After using one bottle her Asthma has disappeared and she is entirely free from all symptoms. I feel that I can consistently recommend the medicine to all who are afflicted with this distressing disease. Yours respectfully, O. D. PHELPS, M. D.

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.

Gentlemen: I was troubled with Asthma for 22 years. I have tried numerous remedies, but they have all failed. I ran across your advertisement and started with a trial bottle. I found relief at once. I have since purchased your full-size bottle, and I am ever grateful. I have family of four children, and for six years was unable to work. I am now in the best of health and am doing business every day. This testimony you can make such use of as you see fit.

Home address, 235 Rivington street.

Feb. 5, 1901.

S. RAPHAEL.

67 East 129th st., New York City.

Trial Bottle sent Absolutely Free on receipt of Postal.

Do not delay. Write at once, addressing DR. TAFT BROS.' MEDICINE CO., 79 East 130th St., N. Y. City.

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Burns coal, coke or wood.

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ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE

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F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

BALTIMORE, Md., March 30, 1901. Gentlemen:—Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion. About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely. I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever. I then saw your advertisement, accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and today, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours, F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

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