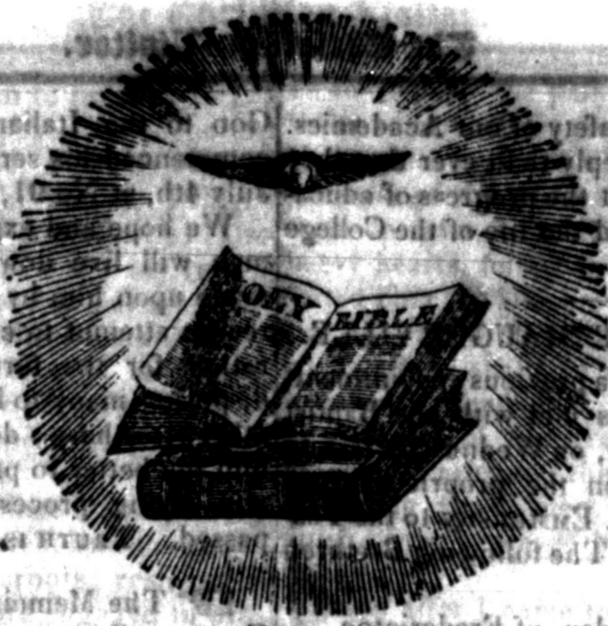


# CHRISTIAN

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REV. E. D. VERV.

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## POETRY FROM TUPPER.

### DUTY.

PEARLS before swine: this is an old complaint  
In very humbleness and not in pride  
The spirit feels it true; yet makes a feint  
To rest with man's neglect well satisfied,  
And have its wealth of words, its stores of thought  
Despised or unregarded: wo betide  
The heart that lives on praise! considering nought  
Of duty's royal edicts, that command  
Thy talents to be lent, thy lamp to shine:  
Soul, be not faint; nor, body, stay thy hand;  
Heed only this,—not whether those be swine,  
But whether these be pearls, precious and pure;  
That so, whatever fate the world makes thine:  
With God for Judge, thy gardeon be secure.

## THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given to man by the inspiration of the Almighty. "Holy men spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." But this revelation of God's will, though addressed "to every creature" of the human family, was not made at first directly to all men in their own vernacular tongue. It was given directly "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek," and out of their respective languages, it was to be translated into all other tongues, and transmitted through successive generations to the end of time.

And there is something remarkable in that Providence of God by which these particular languages became thus the repositories of revealed truth. Their character and destiny gave them an adaptation to this sacred purpose, which could not be found, perhaps, in any other language on earth. The strength and majesty of the Hebrew tongue, which, though unpolished by culture, possessed the highest beauties of sublime thought, were admirably fitted to the purposes of a divine Revelation, wherein the great things of God and eternity—righteousness and truth, justice and mercy, life and death, were to be embodied and brought to light. The unequalled richness and elegance of the Greek tongue made it capable of expressing every variety and shade of thought with the least possible obscurity and the greatest exactness, in a style at once beautiful and dignified. The severer qualities of the former suited the divine diction of a legal dispensation, while the milder features of the latter corresponded more nearly with the spirit of a gracious administration.

These languages, which seem to have been predestinated and prepared of God to this end, were taken in the height of their perfection, and appropriated exclusively to the grand purpose of giving out most fully and plainly, and of perpetuating in its purity, the revelation of God's will. Almost immediately after the Holy Scriptures had been completed, both the Hebrew and the Greek language ceased to be spoken; and the words of inspired truth, so well defined by the established usage of living languages, became forever fixed—a perpetual standard, placed beyond the liability to any material change or corruption.—A. Maclay, D. D.

## THE BIBLE;

### ITS EXCELLENCE.

THE BIBLE is the word of God. It communicates the whole revealed will of the Creator to His creature man.

The term "Bible" signifies *book*. It is exclusively applied to the volume of inspiration, to denote its pre-eminence. It is *THE BOOK*—*THE BOOK OF BOOKS*.

From this source is derived all our knowledge of Jehovah,—of the creation of the world;—the origin and destiny of man;—the immortality of the soul;—the bliss of heaven, and the horrors of hell. From it we learn

the nature of sin—the wiles of Satan—the depravity of our race—the plan of salvation—the divinity and humanity—the life, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory, of Jesus Christ—the ministry of the Holy Spirit—and the history, past and prospective, of the Church universal.

If all that mankind ever learned from the Bible, could be blotted from memory, and every record and trace of such knowledge, with the benefits thence directly or indirectly accruing, completely obliterated, a condition of barbarism would ensue, more hideous and appalling than aught that experience has exemplified, or imagination conceived. He whose glory shines forth from its blessed pages, is no less the SUN of the moral universe, than the great luminary of day is of the planetary system. Were every ray which emanates from His inspired word excluded from earth, our sinful world would be enwrapped in one dark, impenetrable, funereal pall of spiritual gloom, the token of eternal death.

The Bible is the storehouse of *history*. For more than half the period extending from the creation to the present time, it furnishes the only reliable records: and it supplies invaluable sources of information, and facts and incidents of the highest importance for a correct knowledge of the remainder of that period.

It excels in models of *literary* excellence. In all the attributes of genuine poetry, the figurative, the beautiful, the pathetic, and the sublime, it not only equals, but immeasurably surpasses every human production. Its language is always adapted to its subjects; and these are so numerous and diversified, that every variety of style, excellent in its kind, is here to be found in the perfection of its peculiar beauties.

As a book of *morality*, no work of man can be compared with the word of God. Here are not only the codes of purest virtue, accompanied by precepts the most apt and circumstantial, and exemplified by the lives of the holiest of men; but here are motives adapted to the nature of man, and adequate to bring into action the most powerful energies of his soul—motives which, while involving the condition of the present life, array also on the side of virtue all that is attractive in the anticipation of eternal blessedness, and all that is repulsive in the dread of everlasting misery. The images of beauty, of loveliness, and of ineffable glory, by which the future enjoyments of the righteous are illustrated, are only equalled in vividness and impressiveness by the forms of unmitigated horror and wretchedness in which the sufferings of the wicked are portrayed.

But the peculiar glory of the Bible is its revelation of the SAVIOUR of sinners. Mankind are sinful. Depraved by nature, and totally estranged in life from God and righteousness, had there been no salvation revealed in His word, we must have lived without hope, and cherished no anticipation beyond the grave, but a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." The Sacred Scriptures teach us, that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." The cross of Christ in the hope of the world. "There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." It is the revelation of this salvation through Jesus Christ, that makes the inspired volume so dear to those who have felt their guilt. The more they know of themselves and of God, the more they recognize their need of a Saviour. The more they read of Jesus, the more they see and feel that He is just the Saviour that they need. The same book teaches the necessity of re-

generation, and sanctification. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven," and "without holiness no man shall see the Lord," are truths that would render the sinner eternally miserable, were there not provision made in the gospel for the renewal of his nature, and its purification from the love, as well as the effects, of sin. Here the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is revealed to his faith, "God, who worketh in us to will and to do of his own good pleasure," who accompanies the word, and maketh it "the power of God to the salvation of men." 'Tis therefore that the Scriptures "are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith, which is in Jesus Christ."

Is it wonderful that the children of God love his truth? That truth testifies of Him, who to them is "precious," "the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely," whose very name is to them "as ointment, poured forth." That truth, through the Spirit's power, sanctifies their hearts, and prepares them for his glory. That truth sustains their faith, encourages their hope, and nerves them for action or for suffering. The word of God is their meat and their drink, the man of their counsel, a light unto their feet, and a lamp to their paths. Here is balm for the wounded spirit, consolation for the afflicted, support for the drooping; here is knowledge for the ignorant, wisdom for the perplexed, relief for the distressed, and succor for the oppressed; here is food for the hungry, clothing for the naked, and wealth for the needy; but, above all, here is salvation for the lost, pardon for the penitent, and heaven and happiness, honor, glory and immortality for the believer in Jesus.

"Precious Bible! what a treasure Does the word of God afford!"

## DUTY OF DISTRIBUTING THE SCRIPTURES.

The Author of the Bible is a Being of infinite benevolence. He openeth his liberal hand, and filled the mouth of every living thing. He hath taught us to imitate his example—to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to do good, and to communicate. But the wants of man's spiritual being are of more consequence than those of his animal frame, as heaven is superior to earth, as eternity is greater than time. While we should not be negligent of the bodily needs of our fellow creatures, we should be far more anxious to supply the necessities of their immortal souls. The greater part of our race are destitute of the word of God. We possess it. We have the means of communicating it to them. Can we withhold it, and be guiltless? We profess to love the Bible. It is to us the channel of blessings, innumerable and inestimable. No money would tempt us to forego its possession. No adequate inducement could be offered us, to deprive our children of so precious an inheritance. And there is this peculiarity about the priceless treasure. Its value to those who have it, is enhanced by communicating its blessings to others. The more good they do by diffusing the Sacred Scriptures, the more do they prize the volume which has taught them such benevolence. And their happiness grows with the happiness of others. The spirit of the gospel is love; and love delighteth in the welfare of all. Duty and interest, then, peace and pleasure combine to commend to those who possess the word of God, the Christian enterprise of Scripture distribution.—W. H. Wyckoff.

## BURNING THE BIBLE.

A society of gentlemen, most of whom had enjoyed a liberal education, and were persons of polished manners, but had unhappily imbibed the principles, used to assemble at each other's houses, for the purpose of ridicu-

ling the Scriptures, and hardening one another in their unbelief. At last they unanimously formed a resolution to burn the Bible, and so to be troubled no more with a book which was so hostile to their principles, and disgusting to their consciences. A large fire was prepared,—a Bible was laid on the table,—and a flowing bowl was made ready to drink its dirge. For the execution of their plan, they fixed upon a young gentleman of high birth, brilliant vivacity, and elegance of manners. He undertook the task, and after a few evening glasses, amidst the applause of his jovial compeers, approached the table, took up the Bible, and was walking leisurely forward, to put it into the fire; but as his eye fastened on it, all at once he was seized with trembling, paleness overspread his countenance, and he seemed convulsed. He turned to the table, and laying down the Bible, said with a strong asseveration, "We will not burn that book, till we get a better."—W. T.

## THE MIRACLE OF LIFE.

Boundless variety and perpetual change are exhibited in the living beings around us. Take the class of insects alone: of these not fewer than 100,000 distinct species are already known and described; and every day is adding to the catalogue. Wherever you penetrate, there life can be sustained; you find living beings to exist; in the depths of ocean, in the arid desert, or at the icy polar regions.—The air teems with life. The soil which clothes the earth all round, is swarming with life, vegetable and animal. Take a drop of water, and examine it with a microscope: lo! it is swarming with living creatures. Within life, exists other life, until it reaches before the powers of human vision. The parasitic animalcule, which preys upon or within the body of a large animal, is itself preyed upon by parasites peculiar to itself. So minute are living animalcules, that Ehrenberg has computed that not less than five hundred millions can subsist in a single drop of water, and each of these monads is endowed with its appropriate organs, possesses spontaneous power of motion, and enjoys an independent vitality.

In the very ocean depths, insects, by the labour of ages, are enabled to construct islands, and lay the foundations of future continents.—The coral insect is the great architect of the southern ocean. First a reef is formed; seeds are wafted to it, vegetation springs up; a verdant island exists; then man takes possession and a colony is formed.

Dig down into the earth, and from a hundred yards deep, throw up a portion of soil—cover it so that no communication can take place between the earth and the surrounding air. Soon you will observe vegetation springing up—perhaps new plants, altogether unlike anything heretofore grown in that neighbourhood. During how many thousand years has the vitality of these seeds been preserved deep in the earth's bosom? Not less wonderful is the fact stated by Lord Lindsay, who took from the hand of an Egyptian mummy a tuber, which must have been wrapped up there more than 2000 years before. It was planted, was rained and dewed upon, the sun shone on it again, and the root grew bursting forth and blooming into a beautiful Dahlia!

At the North Pole, where you would expect life to become extinct, the snow is sometimes found of a bright red colour. Examine it by the microscope, and lo! it is covered with mushrooms, growing on the surface of the snow as their natural abode.

A philosopher distils a portion of pure water, secludes it from the air, and then places it under the influence of a powerful electric current. Living beings are stimulated into existence, the *coronæ Crossi* appear in numbers! Here we touch on the borders of a great mystery, but it is not at all more mysterious than the fact of life itself. Philosophers know nothing about it, further than it is. The attempt to discover its cause inevitably throws them back upon the Great First Cause. Philosophy takes refuge in religion.

Bishops Selwyn and Tyrrell, of New Zealand, have had a narrow escape of being eaten by the natives of one of the Polynesian islands whom they were attempting to convert. Of the seven vessels loading at London for Australia only one is foreign owned.