THE DIVINE BOOK.

BY REV. W. T. HENRY.

The celebrated novelist, Sir Walter Scott, during his last sickness, when he had returned from Italy to die in his native land, called upon his nurse to bring him the book; and his nurse asking him what book, his reply was, "the Bible, to be sure; that is the book, and the only book to which the definite article can properly be applied."

The Bible is emphatically the book. There are other books, multitudes of them; Scott himself wrote other books; but there is one book, which not man, but the Creator of man wrote, and only one such book, and that is the Bible! Of all books in all languages, it is "first in point of general and individual interest, is complete and true, is connected with the commencement and the end of time, is a narrative of the past, and a lesson for the future."

It may be very naturally asked, if the Bible is such a wonderful book, and every thing of human production is tinged with the imperfections of its author, why do you put any other book into our hands? To which we reply:—For the same reason as guide-boards are put by the road-side; not to detain the traveller, but to direct him aright on his journey. So we write the tract or magazine only to lead you to study and value the Bible more. Especially do we deem this needful in the present day, as there are so many false guides that would misdirect you and lead you to a precipice from which you might fall and perish. The press is now teeming with publications which, however they may be gilded over with professions of liberality—freedom from the prejudices of bigotry—or of profound scholarship, are so many envenomed shafts aimed at the vitals of our christianity, insinuating a deadly poison, which, but for a timely antidote, may burn and agonize the victims of skepticism forever.

But even the very best of human productions are not to be allowed an equality with the word of God. Well has it been said of the sacred writings, that, "indited under the influence of Him to whom all hearts are known, they suit mankind in all conditions, grateful as the manna which descended from heaven and conformed itself to every palate. The fairest productions of human wit, after a few perusals, like gathered flowers, wither in our hands and lose their fragrance; but these unfading plants of paradise become, as we are accustomed to them, more and more beautiful; their bloom appears to be daily brightened; fresh odors are emitted, and new sweets extracted from them. He who hath once tasted their excellences will desire to taste them yet again; and he who tastes them oftenest will relish them best."

Let no man's heart fail him, therefore, on account of the assaults that are made on his faith in the Bible, seeing that for ages it has survived all the malice and power of its enemies, and still—

"Like some tall cliff it lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm;
Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head!"

Nearly one hundred years ago, Paine, the infidel of execrable memory, boasted that he had "gone through the Bible as a woodman with his axe, and cut down all the trees in the Christian Eden; so that however the priests might try to stick them in again, they would never grow." Impious man! he has passed to the tribunal of the judge whom he defied; but the truths he thus boasted of having demolished, are still living, yea more, are striking root in every land, spreading their branches, and yielding their life-giving fruit to the sons of men. Hume, a more subtle and philosophical adversary, exclaimed in a tone of exultation, "Methinks I see the twilight of this Christianity;" meaning the twilight of the evening which would darken into the night of Atheism; but being purblind, he had mistaken the time of day. It was the twilight of the morning, which has ever since been shining more and more unto the perfect day. Nor need we fear the more recent attack which have been made on this sacred volume, especially those upon the inspiration of the Old Testament. From these hostile critics, we can appeal to Him who has put his stamp of approval upon them by repeated references and quotations.

How refreshing it is to turn from these distractions in high places to the dwellings of the pious poor, whose personal experience of the truth and preciousness of the sacred volume is a tower of strength that no sophistry can overturn! I read the other day of such an instance of simple faith in the case of a poor widow of more than four score years. She had her own marginal references. For against one precious promise was put a large P. Upon being asked its meaning, she said, "Oh, that means precious." In the margin of another were the letters T. P., which she said meant "tried and proved." The learned critics would find such an inwrought experiment of faith impregnable to all their assaults; and, blessed be God, there are tens of thousands who have the same inward witness to "the truth as it is in Jesus," and who "believe to the saving of their souls."

The unlettered christian may not be able to answer all the cavils, or unravel all the sophisms of the skeptic, but he has such a conviction of the truth of the Bible wrought in his soul by the Holy Ghost, that you might as well try to convince him that there is neither light nor heat in the sun, as to say there is not truth, precious, saving truth, in the Bible, which has been the guide of his youth, the stay of his manhood, and the staff of his age, and which, he knows moreover, will illumine the dark valley of death, while it assures him of "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

A wise and good man tells of a dream he once had, perhaps it was a waking dream. It was, that on a sudden all the Bibles in the land had their words and chapters blotted out, so as to contain nothing but white paper. From other books also all scripture texts were as suddenly lost, so that nowhere could be found a single Bible word. It was as if God had said, "The people do not love my book as they might, nor care to read it; they shall not therefore have it any longer." Everywhere there was sadness and fear. A great lamp seemed to have gone out, which had shone upon the way to heaven, and all were left in darkness. "Give us back our Bibles; oh, give us back our Bibles was the cry. So God heard the prayer at last, and one day the lost words shone forth again, and filled the land with joy. But a lesson had been learned of the great preciousness of Scripture which could never be forgotten.

Let us learn this lesson. Let us consider how dreary this world would be without this blessed Book. Let us be diligent in the study of it; and looking steadfastly on the image of Jesus Christ, which is presented in its pages, pure and splendid, full of grace and truth, may we through this life become more and more conformed to the divine image, and finally be made partakers of the divine nature.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

'The man who will lie will steal,' and per contra, the man who will hook a fish will falsify about its weight.

Nebraska version: 'She galy seized the kerosene to stimulate the fire, and the tenor who had loved her, at the funeral led the choir.'

Emma Abbott has invented a new kiss. If she desires to dispose of the old lot at cost, she can learn of something to her advantage by calling at this office out of business hours.—*Ex*

A circus proprietor in Canada has applied for the admission of his elephants to this country free of duty. On the ground we presume that their trunks contain no valuables.

This is the latest western form of saying a man was hanged: "He was unanimously chosen by a convention of six property-holders to jump from a new pine platform into the sweet subsequently."

Don't you bathe?" asked Mr. Smith of Miss Jones, on the piazza of the West End, Long Branch. "No." said she, "no, I never bathe—none of our family ever do!" "Gracious!" exclaimed Smith, "is it possible!"

An Oil City man purchased a small hand bellows, took it home, and told his wife he had concluded to blow his brains out; whereupon she replied that a smaller sized bellows would have answered.

Some unhappy person has said Lot's wife would not have looked back but a woman in a new dress passed her, and she wanted to see if the back breadth was ruffled.

Baron Magnus, the German Minister has become insane, mainly on account of Sadie Bernhardt. For such a magnificent advertisement she ought to pension for life all the members of Baron Magnus' family.

If the men were as silent about their ages as the women, we shouldn't hear so many army reminiscences as we now do. The ladies are worthy of being patterned after in this regard.

DINING WITH A TWO-HEADED GIRL.—In response to an invitation from Mr. J. R. Smith, a *Star* reporter took breakfast with Mille Christine, the double headed girl, yesterday morning. The interesting young lady, who posesses two heads, four arms, four feet, sings duets, waltzes, polkas, and boasts of several accomplishments, and has a suit of rooms at No. 51 East Ninth street. When the reporter arrived all was in readiness for the morning meal. Five persons comprised the party.

"The weather is very oppresive," was the greeting of the double-headed girl, as she shook the right hand of the scribe with two of her four hands. The left side smiled serenely and fanned itself vigorously with of the disengaged hands. There was a great deal said at table, but the guests were there for the purpose of taking breakfast with Millie Christine and omitted to make a note of the conversation. The Nightengale occupied one entire side of the table, and while one pair of her eyes was intent upon gazing on the well spread table, the other was looking out of the window with dreamy expression. Two plates were well filled with edibles and the work of destruction was begun.

One-half of the lady had an especial fondness for fried chicken and toast, while the other would partake of nothing but porter-house steak and fried potatoes. In the line of liquids, one-half drank iced milk to the other's coffee, and two napkins were demanded and freely used. Somehow or other there was time found for talking toward the close of the meal, and the Nightengale spoke freely and intelligently upon a number of interesting topics. At times one head would make an assertion which its companion could not entertain and then an interesting and animated discussion would follow. Happily these arguments were amicably adjusted, and breakfast was finished in time for the double headed lady to go to Bunnell's museum for the midday exhibition.

THE POPULAR CORNER!

GEO. L. ROSS,

Has filled up the old MONTANYE STORE with a full and complete stock of FRESH

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

PRICES AS LOW AS THE LOWEST.

Call here for your Groceries. After you get prices at Ross' it will be of no use to try elsewhere for his prices are down to rock bottom.

Farmers can get the tip-top of the market at Geo. L. Ross'. All kinds of Produce taken in exchange for goods or for cash.

THE

Towanda 5 ct. Store

MAIN STREET,

(NEXT DOOR TO FELCH & CO.

Is prepared to offer a complete assortment of

DRY AND FANCY GOODS,

Crockery, Glassware,

WHITE and DECORATED CHINA.

Latest designs and patterns of

MAJOLICA WARE,

BIRD CAGES,

SATCHELS, &C.

For the coming Spring Trade, we adhere as heretofore to our established principle—that a quick sale with a small profit is better than a slow one with a large profit—and therefore our prices in any line of goods will compare favorable with the prices of any other house.

☞We endeavor to sell the best article for the least possible money.

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IRON

A TRUE TONIC

A PERFECT STRENGTHENER. A SURE REVIVER.

IRON BITTERS are highly recommended for all diseases requiring a certain and efficient tonic; especially *Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Intermittent Fevers, Want of Appetite, Loss of Strength, Lack of Energy, etc.* Enriches the blood, strengthens the muscles, and gives new life to the nerves. They act like a charm on the digestive organs, removing all dyspeptic symptoms, such as *Tasting the Food, Belching, Heat in the Stomach, Heartburn, etc.* The only Iron Preparation that will not blacken the teeth or give headache. Sold by all druggists. Write for the A B C Book, 32 pp. of useful and amusing reading—*sent free.*

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HARDWARE,

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CARRIAGE-MAKERS

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SUPPLIES.

CARRIAGE WOOD-WORK,

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FLEXIBLE SPRING GEAR,

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DOES WONDERFUL CURES! WHY?

Because it acts on the LIVER, BOWELS and KIDNEYS at the same time.

Because it cleanses the system of the poisonous humors that develope in Kidney and Urinary Diseases, Biliousness, Jaundice, Constipation, Piles, or in Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Nervous Disorders and Female Complaints.

SEE WHAT PEOPLE SAY:

Eugene B. Stork, of Junction City, Kansas, says, Kidney-Wort cured him after regular Physicians had been trying for four years.

Mrs. John Arnall, of Washington, Ohio, says her boy was given up to die by four prominent physicians and that he was afterwards cured by Kidney-Wort.

M. M. B. Goodwin, an editor in Chardon, Ohio, says he was not expected to live, being bloated beyond belief, but Kidney-Wort cured him.

Anna L. Jarrett of South Salem, N. Y., says that seven years suffering from kidney troubles and other complications was ended by the use of Kidney-Wort.

John H. Lawrence of Jackson, Tenn., suffered for years from liver and kidney troubles and after taking "learcds of other medicines," Kidney-Wort made him well.

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PERMANENTLY CURES

KIDNEY DISEASES,

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☞It is put up in Dry Vegetable Form in tin cans, one package of which makes six quarts of medicine. Also in Liquid Form, very Concentrated, for those that cannot readily prepare it.

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The Purest and Best Medicine ever Made.

A combination of Hops, Buchu, Mandrake and Dandelion, with all the best and most valuable properties of all other Bitters, makes the greatest Blood Purifier, Liver Regulator, and Life and Health Restoring Agent on this earth.

No disease can possibly long exist where Hop Bitters are used, so varied and perfect are their operations.

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To all whose employments cause irregularity of the bowels or urinary organs, or who require an Appetizer, Tonic and mild Stimulant, Hop Bitters are invaluable, without intoxicating.

No matter what your feelings or symptoms are what the disease or ailment is use Hop Bitters. Don't wait until you are sick but if you only feel bad or miserable use them at once. It may save your life. It has saved hundreds.

$500 will be paid for a case they will not cure or help. Do not suffer yourself or let your friends suffer, but use and urge them to use Hop Bitters.

Remember, Hop Bitters is no vile, drugged drunken nostrum, but the Purest and Best Medicine ever made; the "TEMPERANCE FRIEND and HOPE" and no person or family should be without them.

D.I.C. is an absolute and irresistible cure for drunkenness, use of opium, tobacco and narcotics. All sold by druggists. Send for Circular. Hop Bitters Mfg. Co., Rochester, N.Y. and Toronto, Ont.

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HAS REMOVED HIS GROCERY BUSINESS TO THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF MAIN AND BRIDGE STREETS, WHERE HE HAS ESTABLISHED

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FOR EVERYTHING IN THE LINE OF

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No Dairyman can afford to be without one. It makes more and better Butter with less labor.

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beats them all, and any little boy can churn with it.

The improved

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is what every Sugar Maker needs.

THE EUREKA BUTTER WORKER

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Give us a call and we will try and satisfy you in price and quality. mar 23

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TOWANDA, JAN. 26th, 1881. (jan27-t

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Candidates will be examined in the following branches:

Orthography,	U. S. History,
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Arithmetic,	Chapters of Cæsar,
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Those who are desirous of taking the *course*, and are not thorough in several of the branches above named, will save time and money by attending the school during the Spring Term in order to qualify for the examinations.

In many cases this plan will save nearly a year's time.

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before you get your new "SPRING RIG," and save 20 per cent over any other dealer in Bradford County.

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