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I. INSPIRATION.

A few years before his death, Theodore D. Woolsey, President of Yale University, was asked by a leading Quarterly to write an article for its pages on Inspiration. He declined to do so, on the ground that the time had not yet arrived for such a thing to be successfully done. President Woolsey died in 1889, and during these intervening years perhaps no biblical subject has had fuller discussion. Yet inspiration is still regarded by most biblical students as a *question*; notwithstanding this, inspiration is generally regarded as also a *fact*.

“The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”¹ To every believer in the truthfulness of the Bible, these words of the apostle reveal the fact of inspiration, declare that the Scriptures are, in some sense, the product of a divine influence brought to bear upon human writers. The process by which the Scriptures were formed has been long and gradual. “At sundry times and in divers manners”² has God spoken to us in times past. The Koran was given all at once. Full-grown it sprang from the shield of Mahomet, a prophet who not only had no forerunner, but who, as the professed bearer of divine revelation, had no successor. The Bible, however, has come to us through many prophets, each

¹2 Pet. 1:21.

²Heb. 1:1, 2.

"it enhances our temporal prosperity, ennobles the character and conduct of our earthly calling, and enriches the soul with the wealth of heaven."

We "are not redeemed by such a contemptible thing as gold," but many are not redeemed without it. It is the chief instrumentality in the outward extension of the kingdom of Christ, and of its internal development.

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G. R. BRACKETT.

KENNEDY'S PUBLICATION.

PUBLICATION. *By Rev. M. S. Kennedy.* Richmond, Va. : Presbyterian Committee of Publication. Pp. 16. Price, 2 cents.

This is a sermon from the text, "Give attendance to reading." It was preached for the purpose of arousing interest, in the congregation of the author, in the cause of Publication. The treatment of the subject is admirable, and wherever it is read the contributions to this important work will be increased. There is only one point in it open to criticism. The policy of the Committee, in devoting every cent contributed, and all of the profits from the business department, to the distribution of Christian literature, is commended. The wisdom of this is questionable. No one questions that such work is wise and profitable, and every one regrets that more of it can not be done ; but what our Church most needs at present is a literature of her own, one that will give her prestige and influence in the nation and in the world. There is sufficient scholarship and literary talent in our Church to produce such a literature, yet most of the books that we ourselves read are the products of some other Church. The chief reason of this lies in our publication system. If one now writes a book, there is no possibility of getting it before the public unless the publisher is secured against loss. Few of our ministers are able to give this security, so he must himself hawk his wares before the public, begging for subscriptions to justify the publication of the work. This is humiliating, and few, even for the good of the Church, are willing to do it. The remedy is for the Committee of Publication to publish whatever would be worthy of preservation, whether it were a financial success or not. The benefits that would accrue would more than repay the Church for its expenditure. It would furnish the Church with a philosophical, theological, historical and devotional literature that would correctly represent our principles, conceptions, purposes and hopes ; one that would increase the respect of the Church at large for the ability and scholarship of our ministry, and at the same time increase our influence and promote our usefulness. It would also have the effect of producing scholars, and of cultivating literary talents that now lie dormant. The policy that fails to recognize this is indeed shortsighted, and the result is that the Southern Church which has scholars, theologians and orators that could make her name famous throughout the world occupies a place that is almost provincial. The few whose writings have been published have done us honor, some of them have shown extraordinary genius, but their writings do not constitute a literature, the line is too thin to command attention.

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