

word, and we have an emperor before he, it

contemplated work. It is then proposed to obtain from living men whose names are widely and favorably known, statements of their views as to the wholesome influence of that sacred book, particularly in its bearings on civil and social life. Such a document, it is believed, can hardly fail to exert a propitious influence. There are thousands of youth, native and foreign, among us, continually looking up to our leading public men for wisdom, and are greatly affected by their opinions; but who little know how much value some of these men attach to the sacred volume in its various tendencies.

Among some twelve or fifteen names selected by our Board, whose opinions on this topic are sought, I find six, that of yourself; and beg leave, with great respect, to inquire, whether you can furnish them with a letter which shall show our young countrymen, how you regard the Scriptures in the relations referred to. Should such a document as is sought, be obtained, measures will be adopted to give it a wide circulation among those for whom it is designed, and probably in two or three different tongues.

Should the inquiry be raised as to the desired length of these letters, I would state, that as a pamphlet only is contemplated which

Cambridge (Mass.) Nov. 1852

Gentlemen

I have received, with great pleasure, ^{of Oct. 20} the communication of your Secretary, ^{containing} the highly gratifying ^{information} that an increased effort is about to be made for the more general distribution of the Holy Bible. I cannot refrain from ~~the~~ expressing of the thankfulness I feel at this, intelligence. Whatever is done in this, ^{direction}, ~~work~~, is done ~~for our country~~ for the happiness & the best interests of ^{our country} ~~the people~~. The experience of all ages has taught us that republican institutions can have no permanent basis but in the ^{moral} ~~virtue~~ ^{virtue} of the people. Intelligence alone, without ~~virtue~~, has proved to be ^{insufficient for their purpose} ~~no security~~. Intellect, without principle, is the ^{attribute} ~~mark~~ of the worst of beings. Despotism may exist, ^{independent of} ~~without~~ morality; but republics ^{soon} ~~have~~ perished when the people become corrupt. The efforts of christian patriots therefore must be directed to elevate, enlighten & sustain the moral character of our citizens; ~~it is known no method is efficient to this end, as to put~~ ~~the great instrument to effect this, is to~~ ~~give them with the knowledge & wisdom of the Bible.~~

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of its divine character, I think no man, who deals honestly with his own mind & heart, can entertain a reasonable doubt. For myself I must say, that having for many years made the evidences of christianity the subject of close & patient study, the result has been a firm & increasing conviction of the authenticity & plenary inspiration of the Bible; that it is indeed the Word of God. It opens ^{up to our view} the source of moral obligation or of public & private duty, & enforces these with the only sanctions that can affect the mind of man & reach his conscience, namely, the omniscience, of God, & the certain retributions of the life to come. Without these ~~sanctions~~ ^{sanctions}, the laws are no longer observed, oaths lose their hold on the conscience, promises are violated, frauds are multiplied, & moral ^{obligation is} ties are dissolved. And these ^{sanctions} natural religion does not furnish; they are found in the Bible alone. It is the ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~work~~ - for purity & vigor of style, for sublimity of thought, for grandeur of conception, for purity & elevation of moral principle, for the practical wisdom of its teachings & the universality of their application, & above all for the high & ~~all~~ important character of its themes, the Holy Bible is not even approached by any human composition. It is this & this ^{alone that} can make

men wise unto salvation.

Our republican institutions, thus far, have been the admiration of intelligent men of all nations, both for the profound wisdom exhibited in their construction, & for the success with which they have been administered. But it should never be forgotten that these foundations were laid by ~~Bible Men~~; that it has been ~~the influence of the same class of men~~, that they have been administered by ~~men~~ ^{women} trained with the bible in their hands, as their household book, & the book of the schools; & ~~was~~ early taught to hold its precepts in deep reverence, as the rule of their conduct in after life. It was this that made them what they were; & ~~that has~~ led our country to its present height of prosperity & renown. And I am deeply convinced, that the continuance of these blessings, & the happiness of each member of the community, will depend on the degree in which the Holy Scriptures are familiarly studied. The distribution of the Bible, & its introduction into all the schools, belong therefore to the highest ~~of public~~ ^{of public} labors. ~~It is my duty~~ While others are administering the constitution & the laws, your Society ^{are} supplying this vital element; ~~but the same time~~ ^{of both; and in the copiousness of this are doubtless} deriving for yourselves the highest incentive to perseverance in the glorious work -

I remain &c -

The Managers, of the Am. Bib. Soc.

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free expression of my sentiments on this subject
Trusting that this ~~part~~ ^{note} of this communication may
find its apology in the wish of the Secretary that
I would so express them, permit me to remain
gentleman, with the highest respect
your faithful Servt.
S.G.

can pass through the mails, they need not be
long. What might be written on a letter sheet
or two (or the half of one if the writer prefers)
would suffice. The letters can be addressed in-
ternally to the "Managers of the American Bible
Society" - New York.

In the hope of a favorable response,
to this request of our Board, and with assur-
ances of high personal regard, I am
Sir,

Most truly and Respectfully,
Your Obedt Servant,
Hon. S. Greenleaf J. C. Brigham
Sec. A. B. S.

P. S. Among those whose letters have been solic-
ited are Messrs Webster, Cass, Rives, Buchanan,
Everett, Trower &c.