

BIBLE GEMS

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Bible gems by P. C. Croll

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P. C. CROLL

BIBLE GEMS

Bible. English. Selection
1908. Authorized.

BIBLE GEMS

SELECTED AND ARRANGED BY
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PREFACE.

Some years ago we published a little booklet of questions and answers from God's word and named it "Bible Quiz." Its object was to stimulate among the young a closer search into the treasures of the divine book, and thus help form a more general acquaintance with its structure and its rich and varied contents. We believe, from its general sales and the kind letters the author has received from many who are using it, that it has filled a felt want and been productive of good.

The same motives have prompted us to send forth this companion volume. It is our opinion that in our day the committing of Scripture passages has largely fallen out of use in home and school. Beyond, possibly, the memorizing of "golden texts" (and in many schools this is sadly neglected), there is no effort made by our present-day Sunday schools in committing to memory the blessed truths of God's word. The day of red and blue tickets has gone by, and so has much of the Bible reading and study in the home, where, alas! the old-time family altar has been almost universally broken down.

We feel that by placing the Scriptures in tempting tidbits before our young people there may be awakened a zealous desire on the part of parents and teachers, as well as

children, to make these "Gems" their own mental possessions. Other literary gems, poetic and prose, are taught our children in school, and a healthy rivalry is often created in classes in the memorizing of these richest thoughts of our English and American literature. If it is worth while to commit to memory the best thoughts of a Burns, Scott, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Browning, Gray, Tennyson, Cowper, Young, Campbell, Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, Saxe, Lowell, Riley, Carleton, Field, and others in poetry, and to acquaint one's self in the best products of an endless list of classic prose writers, from Addison to Howells, then surely it should be regarded as imperative, for knowledge's sake alone, to know some of the most stirring words of the thirty-six authors, who, as the inspired amanuenses of Jehovah, wrote for us the Book of all books. Their style will be found elegant in diction and classically strong. It is our conviction that this memorizing will follow much more probably when such "Gems," are placed in convenient form before our children. So much of literary beauty, like the gold nuggets among the quartz, is unknown because it is a hid treasure in the mine of history, prophecy, or exhortation, of which the Holy Scriptures are largely composed.

In this little book some of these Bible Gems are taken from their proper settings and placed before us for admiration, and

many for mental mastery and possession as literary "Gems." It will be easy to place them back into their proper surroundings (for these are indicated herewith), and thus give them their original force as regards the mind of their several authors, or the mind of God, who inspired them. Thus they will charm by their own beauty and force and prove a mighty factor for the uplift of life and character in their proper connection. Parents and teachers should everywhere encourage the memorizing among the young of many of these passages. They will then prove a strength and grace in their lives.

P. C. C.

"THE CROW'S NEST,"

Mt. Gretna, Pa., July, 1907.

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CHAPTER I.

THE MAJESTY AND POWER OF GOD.

[The chapter headings will serve in the classification of the "Gems" selected. The specimens given may not exhaust the subjects treated, while some extracts might as well be placed under other captions; but these captions will help the more orderly arrangement and serve the student in the mastery of Bible passages by treating the beauties considered in subjects. Any teacher may find it possible to augment the lists here given; but in order not to make this handbook too voluminous, we will not strive to be exhaustive, for to be this would be to reprint the greater portion of the Bible itself. Let these specimens and this arrangement suffice to prove the literary charm of this Book of books.—THE AUTHOR.]

The Creation. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: