

Mr Darby and the Scriptures.

His confidence in the Word of God. The critical value of his translations.
The student - preacher.

* "As I have spoken of myself (always a hazardous thing), I add, that at the same period in which I was brought to liberty and to believe, with divinely-given faith, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, I passed through the deepest possible exercise as to the authority of the word: whether if the world and the Church (i.e., as an external thing, for it yet had certain traditional power over me as such) disappeared and were annihilated, and the word of God alone remained as an invisible thread over the abyss, my soul would trust in it. After deep exercise of soul I was brought by grace to feel I could entirely. I never found it fail me since. I have often failed; but I never found it failed me. I have added this, not, I trust, to speak of myself—an unpleasant and unsatisfactory, a dangerous thing—nor do I speak of any vision, but because, having spoken of the presence of the Holy Ghost, if I had not brought in this as to the word, the statement would have been seriously incomplete. In these days especially when the authority of His written word is called in question on every side, it became important to state this part also of the history."—J.N.D

What has this honoured brother been doing for a life-time, but trying by all critical help to get at the true text and meaning of Scripture, set it down, and have it published for the good of the saints?

One great result is his new translation of the Holy Scriptures into German, French, and English, which could not be produced without great and painstaking labour of a critical kind, over a period of many years. The Spirit of God alone can give us the testimony of God in our souls regarding His beloved Son Jesus Christ: and, in cases of extreme difficulty and balanced readings, even guide to the correct critical text. The most learned of modern scholars in this country and America have been working for nearly ten years (1879) on a new English version. Possibly they may miss the true rendering after all, yet we should be thankful for all real help to the obtaining of a true representation in our language of the word of God. — After this Revised Version had been published some time, Mr Kelly wrote: "The R.V. has certainly corrected many errors in the A.V., but it has left not a few, and even added some grave ones. Darby's New Test. is a safer one, as is his German Bible, and his French version of all scripture, though I am of opinion he has overlooked somewhat."

"When quite a young man, and just beginning to preach instead of consulting commentaries and laying hold of the labours of others, I betook myself to the exact study of the word itself, looking into the original of the portion on which I meant to preach from week to week; and with it and a dictionary, I spent one whole day every week in turning up every word, trying to catch the exact shade of meaning which it had in its present connection; and as the pains-taking study of the day went on, the precious truths welled up freely from God's words, through the critical and exegetical apparatus, like water bubbling up through the white sand of the wayside spring; and being the natural flow of the soil it was clear, and cool &

cool, and refreshing, and imparted spiritual blessing with perennial freshness to the soul of the student, and also to those who were the recipients of his ministry. One who knows the real benefit of this method can, with all confidence and "in the fear of Christ," recommend it to his brethren as the true and honest method for a teacher of God's word. But there will be no great show with this way; indeed, those who speak without any careful study of the word, or who repeat the discourses of others in their own way will be vastly more liked; yet there will be the truest and most substantial edification arising from it, for such as use it will be enabled "to increase with the increase of God;" for the well instructed servant by "holding the Head" intelligently will hold Him spiritually, and the nourishment that proceeds from Him will flow down to the saints by the Holy Ghost, by means of His own words understood in their exact grammatical meaning, as they stand in the Holy Scriptures. "Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." "Every Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable."