



HOW, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY WE GOT OUR BIBLE.

The Bible is known to us by various names, every one of which has a beautiful meaning.

The word *Bible* itself comes from a Greek word which means a *book*. This was the name given to the inner bark of the linden tree, and afterwards to the bark of the papyrus, the materials out of which early books were made. From *papyrus* we have the word *paper*.

Testament means *covenant*, or *bargain*, and the Old and New Testaments are therefore the old and new covenants or bargains which God has been pleased to make between Himself and us, His people. These names were first applied only to the covenants themselves; but in course of time they were given to the writings or books which contained records of the covenants; just as we now speak of the decision "of the bench" instead of "the judge," and of addressing "the chair," instead of "the chairman." An "appeal to the Throne" is an appeal to the Sovereign who is supposed to sit on it.

Scriptures, of course, means writings, and refers to the fact that these records were in existence before the time of printing, when writing was the principal mode of preserving records of any kind.

In Acts vii. 38, the records are called "lively oracles," and in Romans iii. 2, and Hebrews v. 12, "the oracles of God." *Oracle* comes from two Greek words which mean to *speak* and *mouth*; so that the "oracles of God" should signify something which came from the mouth of God by speech, that is, the Word of God. This is perhaps the most suggestive and impressive title which we associate with the sacred book. However, in 1 Kings viii. 6., the writer uses the word *oracle* in connection with a part of the Temple, proving that it was sometimes applied to the place where the Words were spoken or revealed.

The word *law* is derived from roots which mean to *lay*, and a law is a rule of action *laid* down by some superior authority. It is therefore easy to see how "The Law" was applied to writings which taught and explained the rules for governing men's actions; and in "The Prophets" we have another example of the way we continually use the name of the speaker for the words he spoke.

Among the Jews the Old Testament was called "The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings." "The Law" comprehended the books which in our present arrangement come before the Psalms; "The Prophets" included those from Isaiah to the end; and Writings meant Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. This classification has been, in the main, adhered to by the Jewish Church, although in more recent times the Hebrew Scriptures have been differently arranged.

Another name for these sacred records is "*Canon of Scripture*." *Canon*, in Greek, signifies a *straight line*, and the process by which it came to be used for a *rule*

or law of conduct seems evident and natural. In Galatians vi. 16, St. Paul speaks of "this rule," and in Phillipians iii. 16, of "the same rule."

The history of the name of a thing is often the best name of the thing itself. In the history of the names of the Bible we find a condensed statement of what the Bible is, and of what we believe regarding it. It is a *Testament* or *covenant* between God and man. It has been preserved to us by the most ancient of methods and is presented to us now in the most modern. It is an *oracle*, an opening of the mouth of God, of such grave and holy import that it gave its name to the place in the Temple where it was read. It is a law *laid down*,—a canon, or *straight line*, "a rule," "this rule" "the same rule," yesterday, to-day and forever."

PANSIES.

They are all in the lily-bed, cuddled close together,
Purples, Yellow Cap, and little Baby Blue;
How they ever got there, you must ask the April weather,
The morning and the evening winds, the sunshine,
and the dew.

YOUNG CANADIAN HISTORICAL CALENDAR.

M A Y.

1. First Missionaries of the Recollet Fathers arrived at Quebec.	1615
2. Ville-Marie founded by Maisonneuve.	1642
3. Hudson's Bay Company formed in England.	1670
4. Casco taken by Portneuf.	1690
5. Casco taken by Du Vivier.	1735
6. Battle between "Le Vigilant" and Warren's fleet at Gabarus Bay.	1745
7. Fort Sandusky taken by Indians.	1763
8. Great Fire at Montreal.	1765
9. Americans defeated at Vaudreuil.	1776
10. St. John, N.B., founded by E. U. Loyalists.	1783
11. Rocky Mountains crossed by MacKenzie.	1793
12. Americans defeated at Sackett's Harbour.	1813
13. Oswego captured by British.	1814
14. First steamer, "The Pumper," passed through Rideau Canal.	1832
15. Hudson's Bay Company's new charter.	1838
16. Great Fire at Quebec.	1845
17. Kingston, Ont., founded.	1846
18. First Ocean Steamer, "The Geneva," arrived at Quebec.	1853
19. Anglican Synods authorized.	1857
20. Weekly Steamers started by Messrs. Allan.	1859
21. Skirmish with Fenians at Eccle's Hill.	1870
22. Prince Edward Island Railway.	1875
23. Royal Society founded.	1882
24. Col. Otter attacked Rebels at Cut Knife.	1885
25. Batoche taken.	1885
26. Railway from Montreal to Vancouver.	1887

The writer of the Best Essay on any item of the May Calendar will receive a beautiful Pocket Magnifying Glass—a most useful companion for boys and girls. Essays received till May 30th.