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THE REVISED BIBLE:

“ It is not easy, said Mr. Frowde, London manager of the Clarendon Press, ‘ to give you an exact idea of the quality of organized labour involved in the execution of these arrangements. Since last June our presses have been hard at work, but before and besides that, there was special type to be made, special machinery to be devised, all of which we do ourselves. The provision of the paper has been an enterprise in itself for months past, for it is only by using the finest rag-made paper that the Bible can be compressed into the single handy volume in which the English public insist on reading it. From one mill alone, 250 tons of paper have been produced for this special purpose, so fine and light that they would put a girdle round the world, six inches wide. Yet even this delicate fabric, if piled in sheets, would make a pillar eight times the height of St. Paul’s. For some time we have been turning out nearly 2,000 reams a week from our press alone, and the men have been working night and day. Relays of men have been employed—the machinery has been going night and day. We are hard at work printing still, but by this time, it is the binding and the packing that is our chief occupation. Many of the large binding factories in the town are hard at work at our Bibles now—working overtime most of them—and I have no doubt that more than 5,000 persons are so employed. Another peculiarity in the preparation of this new edition of the Bible is that so many purchasers demand it in leather bindings of every order of expensiveness. The skins of every animal that lend themselves to the bookbinders’ tool have been required by tens of thousands, and the gilding of edges and leather has absorbed gold by the handful. Even so, there is one thing we cannot get done fast enough—that is the gilding for the best copies. The ordinary gilding is simple enough: but choice gilding in which each book has to be done separately after the edges are ‘ rounded,’ so as to present a perfectly smooth appearance is a very special branch of the trade, and there are not enough men in it to keep up with our wants.’ As for the packing, the Clarendon Press has lately removed into new premises in Amen-corner, and the old warehouse lower down the Row, which it has occupied for two hundred years, has come in opportunely for the packing operations. Our repre-

sentative was taken from basement to attic, and there was not an available corner anywhere which was not stacked with Bibles—of all sizes, shapes and quality—some being done up in boxes, some in parcels against the day of publication.

Bibles, Bibles everywhere, but never a line to read; for, courteous as Mr. Frowde was in every way, there was one thing which he very soon let it be understood he could not do, and that was to show the inside of any of the books whose outsides he felt so legitimate a pride in showing off. Mr. Frowde’s caution was not due, we may add, to any special suspicions of our representative. Even the two copies presented to the Convocation of Canterbury on April 30th were kept sealed until publication day. A handsomely bound copy of the standard edition of the Revised Bible was presented by the Convocation of Canterbury to the Queen on Friday last. It is enclosed in a morocco case, like the copies which were presented to Convocation, and bears the following inscription:— ‘ Presented to HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN by the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury. May xv., A.D., MDCCCLXXXV.’ You may wonder how, though I dare say some 10,000 people have had the handling of the book, we are not afraid of any premature disclosure. But in the first place we have treated the leaves as carefully as if they were bank notes, and it would be very hard for any one even to be abstracted without our knowing it. Then, as to the binding, every firm to whom we have given books out has to give us a written guarantee; and we have plenty of people about wherever the books go, to keep their eyes open and see that nothing goes wrong. That all these precautions are quite necessary, you will see, I think, when I tell you that when the Revised New Testament came out it came to our knowledge that American agents were offering very large sums for an illicit copy. They did not get what they wanted, but even without that help they managed within a week of its publication to get out a complete edition.”—Abridged from *The Pall Mall Gazette*.

MISCELLANEOUS PARTICULARS.—At the Oxford University’s own paper mill which is situated at Wolvercote, near Oxford, 375 tons of rags have been consumed in making 250 tons of paper for this issue of the Revised version. It would cover 2½ square miles.