

"well ripened in God's Word." Leaving Cambridge he became tutor in the family of Sir John Walsh, of Sudberry, Gloucestershire, and it was during this time, that fired with righteous indignation at the remarks made by another priest, he answered, "I defy the Pope and all his laws, and if God gives me life, ere many years the ploughboys shall know more of the Scriptures than you do."

Henceforth he passed his time in study. He prayed, read, and carried on his translation till persecution forced him to remove to London, where for six months he remained, studying for the most part of the day and night at his work."

Again persecution forced him to the conclusion "that there was no place in England where he could translate the Bible." So with his New Testament and £10, the gift of a friend, he sailed for Hamburg. As he left, he said, "Our priests have buried the Testament of God, and all their study is to keep it down, that it rise not again; but the hour of the Lord is come, and nothing can hinder the Word of God, as nothing could hinder Jesus Christ from issuing from the tomb."

That poor man, sailing towards Germany, was to send back, even from the banks of the Elbe, the eternal Gospel to his countrymen.

Reaching Germany he entered with great vigor upon his work, and printed first the gospel of Matthew and Mark. Being disturbed in the midst of his work of printing the whole New Testament, he gathered up the few already printed sheets and fled to Worms, where he completed the work.

When the books reached England the Bishop of London, having gained possession of a copy, warned the people against it, and said he had discovered 2,000 errors or heresies in it. He also set to work to buy up the books, that he might burn them.

Tyndale remarked, when he heard of this, "I shall get the money for the books, and put myself out of debt, and the whole world shall cry out at the burning of God's Word; and the overflow of the money that shall remain to me shall make me more studious, to correct again, and newly to reprint the same."

The Bibles bought by the Bishop were

burned in St. Paul's Church-yard on the 4th May, 1530. As Testament after Testament was flung into the blazing fire, the people were solemnly warned against the sin of reading the Word of God. But it only resulted in awakening a desire on the part of the people to read it.

While Tyndale's enemies in England were thus engaged, he himself was revising his translation and preparing a version of the Old Testament, and four years later issued the revised edition.

A man so occupied was not likely to long remain unmolested. He was finally betrayed into the hands of his enemies, and was imprisoned. During the two years of his imprisonment he spent part of his time in preparing a translation of the New Testament, with a provincial orthography suited to rustic laborers, thus redeeming to the letter his early pledge to give the plough-boy the Word of God.

In September, 1536, he was led forth to execution, and having been first strangled, his body was thrown into the flames. His last breath went up to heaven in the well-known prayer, "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England."

Tyndale was eminently a great man—great in mind, in heart—in enterprise. He labored for the good of man in obscurity and exile, reaping no earthly benefit whatever—looking for no reward but the approving smile of his heavenly Father.

"Such was Wm. Tyndale who for his notable pains and travail, may well be called the Apostle of England.

Three centuries have passed since Tyndale's testaments were burned in St. Paul's Church-yard. Now on that very spot where stood the celebrated cross, stands the Depository of the Religious Tract Society, whence the writings of Wickcliffe, Tyndale and Luther with many others, are sent forth to all parts of the world. And on the banks of the Thames (down which the *exile Martyr* sailed), there will ere long be erected a monument to his memory. Thus side by side will stand mementoes of the man who under God gave the English Bible to his native land, and also of the man who did so much towards securing its teachings to the Children and Young People of England.