

pation of her speedy death, but who rapidly recovered under the treatment of Mr. Ringer. Another remarkable case is recorded by Mr. Mackay as follows:

"There was a young man living near the base of the mountain ranges in from Banka, who was supposed to be possessed with a devil, and who would not eat, could not sleep, and tried to take away his own life; wandering in his conversation, he frequently shouted and yelled, foamed at the mouth, struck his head with his fists and threw himself prostrate on the ground, and from time to time endeavored to escape into the hills. In desperation his parents ran to and fro seeking relief, idols were carried from neighboring temples, mock-money was burned in heaps, Taoist priests were summoned to the spot, sorcerers were sought out, and all combined did their utmost to drive out the demon, but all of no avail. Broken-hearted, disappointed, and somewhat disgusted at those employed, the father came to the nearest chapel and asked with tears in his eyes if I could do anything for his son. On hearing that I would try, six strong men dragged him struggling into the room, but twice that number failed in their endeavors to make him swallow a dose; at last I induced him to take it, and ordered a daily bath with cold douche to the head and spine and a mixture of magnesia and iron to be taken three times a day, the patient to be lodged in a quiet house near the chapel where he would be frequently seen. At the end of a week he began to attend service morning and evening, and in a fortnight returned home sound in mind and body. Scores of families in the neighborhood at once became friendly to our work, and not a few became regular attendants at the chapel. It is thus that many of the converts in North Formosa have been brought to abandon their idolatrous and superstitious ceremonies, and to become worshippers of the one living and true God."

The appropriation made to the hospital by the Canadian Church has been supplemented to nearly an equal amount by the contributions of the foreign residents in Tamsui; and through the generosity of Mrs. Mackay of Canada (widow of the late Captain Mackay), who has donated \$1,200 for the purpose, the mission will shortly be in possession of a new and commodious hospital building which will no doubt play a prominent part in the permanent establishment of Christianity in that heathen land.

INTELLIGENCE FROM REV. J. M. DOUGLAS, INDORE.

DR. REID has received a letter from Mr. Douglas, dated 27th March.

Mr. Douglas states that the two converts referred to in previous letters, who were to have been baptised a week before the date of the letter, were seized the same day and were then in bonds for Jesus' sake. Their house was shut up, and the missionaries did not know their state. Mr. Douglas writes: "Will the Church in Canada cry unto God for their deliverance, and the prison door may be opened, and as in the case of Peter, they shall be free."

The mission family had been tried also with sickness. Small-pox had been in the house for some weeks; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas suffered from some of the symptoms of the disease, and their boys were taken ill one after the other, but all had recovered through the goodness of God. Miss McGregor had also been ill, but the attack was of a very mild character. The ladies at Mhow, and Mr. Campbell, were well.

This sickness has interfered with the work of the mission, and has also prevented Mr. Douglas writing to friends. Many will no doubt remember our dear friends amidst their varied trials.

Mr. Douglas finds his printing press of great service. They have been greatly encouraged in the use of it. The Tract Society of Bombay had placed at their disposal all their engravings for the purpose of illustration, and had written to the parent society in London for a supply of paper for the mission at Indore.

THE BIBLE.—THE PLACE IT HOLDS IN GOD'S CHURCH.

The Bible is a wonderful book. Many glorious things are said of it.

It is the oldest book in the world, and has been a power for good ever since its first chapters were written, and it will continue to be a power on the earth to the end of time. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word shall not pass away."

It was the great educational work of the Jews, and the source of all their intellectual and moral culture; and it was destined to occupy the same place among all the nations of the earth.

It was a light in this dark world, revealing to man the attributes of God, making known His will, teaching the plan of salvation, and preparing mankind for the coming of the Redeemer of the world.

And when Christ came, it testified of Him and proved Him to be the promised and long expected Messiah. The Bible contained the credentials of Christ. He could not have proved His divine mission but by the writings of the Old Testament. He appealed constantly to the Scriptures. "Search the Scriptures," He exclaimed, "for they are they which testify of me."

The Bible was chiefly instrumental in establishing the Church. The apostles, like Christ, had to combat the whole Jewish system of tradition. With the pure Word of God in hand, they preached the Gospel and established the Church. No Jew would have believed them and joined their communion, unless he was convinced of the truth of their preaching by those writings which the Jews held sacred and had received into the canon of their Scriptures.

The apostles themselves were eye-witnesses of the work and doctrine of Christ. And what they had seen and witnessed they wrote down for the future instruction and guidance of the Church. Thus the writings of the New Testament originated.

The Church was not fully established until the apostles had completed their work, and finished their mission on earth.

The Bible therefore existed before the full establishment of the Church, and at no time can it be said that oral tradition was allowed by God as the rule of faith. The Church without the Bible is a myth.

It has always been God's way to perpetuate great and salutary institutions by written documents. So it was in the Old Testament. So likewise in the New. With the help of the Divine Spirit, Christianity was to be perpetuated by the writings of the Old and New Testaments.

This plan was observed for a short time after the death of the apostles. The Bible alone was the rule of faith of the first Christians. When they could no longer hear the living voice of the apostles bearing witness of Christ and His doctrine, they collected their genuine writings into one book, which they read in their assemblies, giving it the same value and authority as they gave to the writings of the Old Testament. Their Roman persecutors were well aware of the reverence in which they held the Bible. Hence the delivery of the sacred volume into their hands was considered a sufficient sign of apostasy.

Those Christians who gave up their Bibles were considered apostates, and were no longer molested by the government. They were called *Traditores* (givers-up of the Bible), a name to which the odious meaning of traitor was attached. Those Christians who were unwilling to give up the sacred volume suffered cruel tortures and died the death of martyrs. All this means that the first Christians looked upon the Bible as their only rule of faith.

But this state of the Christian mind did not last long. Human nature loves the traditions of men. The members of the Christian Church soon yielded to this propensity. The "Catholic Consent" was substituted in the place of the Bible, and this consent was based on tradition. As it had been in the Jewish Church, so also in the Christian Church, tradition soon occupied the principal place.

In proportion as the Scriptures were neglected, darkness crept in and soon covered the face of the whole Church. Sacerdotalism grew up and became strong in this state of darkness. We have all heard of the dark ages in which superstition and priestism prevailed.

But Christ was with his Church. God is nearest when the need is greatest. He prepared the way for a reformation. Well-meaning men have often tried to reform the Church *in capite et membris*. But they had failed. And why? Because they had tried to effect a reformation on the basis of established and deep-rooted traditions. God's way of reforming is different. He reforms on the basis of his Word. In order to make an effectual reformation, the Scriptures alone had to become its instrument. While the Church was groping in darkness, the Spirit guided the pen of an obscure monk to translate the Word of God into the "vulgar tongue," and to give it into the hands of the people as *the only rule of faith*. He declared war to the old scholastic theology which had obscured men's minds, and he introduced again *the theology of the Bible*.

On the basis of the Bible a *permanent protest* was made against sacerdotalism and its enslaving errors. Henceforth the word PROTEST became a consecrated word, and all true Christians love to be called PROTESTANTS. They glory in their Protestantism, and discard with scorn the ambiguous meaning of the word "Catholic." Through the Reformation, Christians became again MEN,—men endowed with true manhood,—men of independent thought,—men untrammelled by human traditions and systems,—men who want no human priests between themselves and their God.—*Evangelical Churchman*.

It is refreshing to find that all the seceders from the Church of England do not go over to Rome. The Rev. Charles T. Astley, M.A., Vicar of Gillingham, Chatham, resigns his living and becomes a Nonconformist on account of the Romanizing tendency of the Establishment.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York "Evening Post," writing from Tokio, under date of April 5th, says the famine in the north of China rages with increasing severity, and the most dreadful reports come from the affected regions. In one town a man opened a shop for the sale of human flesh and did a good business in cannibalistic joints and roasts till the local mandarin ordered the shopkeeper to be arrested and beheaded.