

The First English Bible.

The earliest attempt to make an English translation of any portion of the Bible was in 1505, when a translation of the seven penitential Psalms were made. In 1526 William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament appeared, but the edition was bought up and burned. In 1530 Tyndale published his translation of the Pentateuch, and a year later the book of Jonah. The first English version of the whole Bible was published by Miles Coverdale in 1535, and dedicated to Henry VIII. In 1537 the next English edition, known as Matthew's Bible, appeared.

In 1539 Crammer's Bible (so called because he wrote a preface to it), made its appearance. Richard Taverner published an edition in the same year. The "Geneva Bible" (so called because the translation was made in Geneva, by several English divines), came from the press in 1557. This was the first edition divided into verses and printed in Roman letters. It was the subject of much playful criticism by reason of the last word in the translation of Gen. iii, "Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches." It was sometimes called "The Breches Bible."

The "Bishop's Bible" was published in London 1568. From 1607 to 1610 a number of the most eminent divines of England were engaged in still another translation, which resulted in what has ever since been known as "King James' Bible," and which continues to be the standard version.

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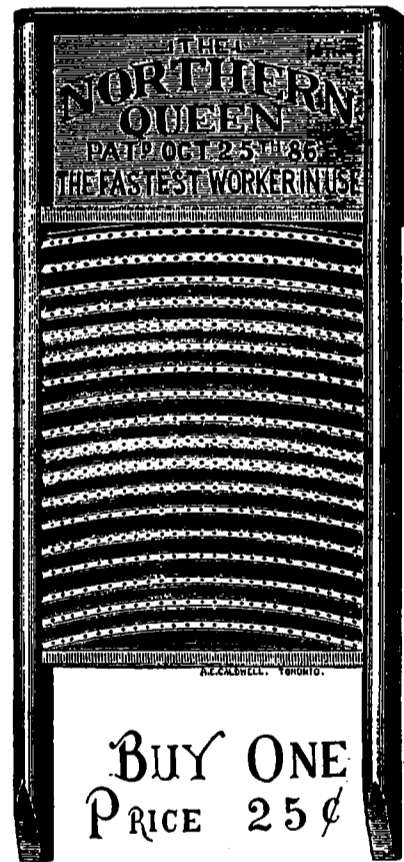
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