

THE BIBLE IN JAPANESE.

The translation of the whole Bible into a new tongue is an achievement which should be recognized with thanksgiving to God. Such an achievement has now been accomplished in Japan. In this year of our Lord 1888 the subjects of that empire are able, for the first time, to read in their own language and their own syllabary the entire Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments; and, as the *Missionary Herald* observes: "It is a singular fact, illustrating the marvellous progress of Christianity in Japan, that there should be nearly *twenty thousand members of churches* in the empire before the whole Bible is given to the people in their native tongue."

This is not an achievement of one man, or of one society, though to the venerable Dr. Hepburn, of the Presbyterian Mission, one of the earliest missionaries to arrive in Japan in 1859, is due the credit of being the only man who has wrought steadily from first to last upon the version, and of doing more than any other man to perfect it. Associated with him in the translation of the New Testament were Dr. S. R. Brown, of the Reformed Church, and Dr. D. C. Greene, of the American Board, whose salaries and expenses for a term of years were paid by the American Bible Society.

In the translation of the Old Testament Dr. Hepburn's coadjutors were Dr. G. F. Verbeck, of the Reformed Church, and the Rev. P. K. Fyson, of the Church Missionary Society; and here again appropriations for the support of the two last named were made by the British and Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions having expressed its preference not to accept any contributions from the Bible Societies toward the support of Dr. Hepburn.

A meeting to celebrate the completion of the translation of the Bible into Japanese was held in Tokio, in the Shin Sakai Church, on the 3rd of February. There was a large gathering of foreigners and Japanese, the church being filled. J. C. Hepburn, M.D., LL.D., occupied the chair. Addressing the audience, he said:—

Dear Christian friends,—As chairman of the Permanent Committee, I have the very great pleasure of making the public announcement that the work of translating and publishing the Scriptures of the Old Testament, which was entrusted to this committee by the Convention of Protestant Missionaries assembled in Tokio in the spring of 1878, has at length, after a labour of nearly ten years, been, through the good hand of our God upon us, successfully completed.

On the desk was lying a beautifully bound copy of the whole Bible in five volumes, presented to Dr. Hepburn by the National Bible Society of Scotland, on the last day of last year, immediately after the completion of the translation.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Hepburn, suiting the action to the word, took the New Testament in one hand and the Old Testament in the other, and reverently placing them together laid the book down—a complete Bible. Knowing that he had spent the last sixteen years almost entirely on this work, and knowing the deep interest which he has in it, the audience was visibly moved at the simple but touching action which seemed to unite the work of the two committees into one.

WITH THE MISSIONARIES IN SOUTH INDIA.

The story which follows is taken from that ever attractive serial, the *Journal* of the London Missionary Society. The incident is very interesting in itself, and it affords a glimpse of the quiet but vast spiritual revolution which is passing over all India. The writer is the Rev. Maurice Phillips.