

held on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of January, 1604. We are not here concerned with the petitions and arguments which mainly occupied the hours of debate; our present interest is in a question which was a 'together subordinate at the time, but which the event proved to be the most important and the most fruitful of all the questions raised. At this conference the Puritans were represented by Dr. Reynolds, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Dr. Sparke, Mr. Knewstubs, and Mr. Chaderton; the opposite party by Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bancroft, Bishop of London, seven other bishops, and five deans. An account of the sum and substance of the conference, written by Dr. Barlow, Dean of Chester, is our chief authority for the proceedings of this assembly.

In the course of the second day, Dr. Reynolds "moved his Majesty that there might be a new translation of the Bible, because those which were allowed in the reign of King Henry VIII, and Edward VI. were corrupt, and not answerable to the truth of the original. For example, first, Gal. iv. 25, the Greek word *συτροιχει* is not well translated, as now it is; *bordereth* neither expressing the force of the word, nor the apostle's sense, nor the situation of the place. Secondly, Ps. cv. 28, 'They were not obedient,' the original being, 'They were not disobedient.' Thirdly, Ps. cvi. 30, 'Then stood up Phinees and prayed;' the Hebrew hath 'executed judgment.' To which motion there was, at the present, no gainsaying, the objections being trivial and old, and already in print, often answered; only my lord of London well added, that if every man's humour should be followed, there would be no end of translating. Whereupon his Highness wished that some special pains should be taken in that behalf for one uniform translation (professing that he could never yet see a Bible well translated into English, but the worst of all his Majesty thought the Geneva to be), and this to be done by the best learned in both the universities; after them to be reviewed by the bishops and the chief learned of the church; from them to be presented to the privy council; and lastly to be ratified by his royal authority. And so this whole church to be bound unto it and none other. Marry, withal, he gave this caveat (upon a word cast out by my lord of London), that no marginal notes should be added, having found in them which are annexed to the Geneva translation (which he saw in a book given him by an English lady) some notes very partial, untrue, seditious, and savouring too much of dangerous and traitorous conceits. As, for example, the first chapter of Exodus, and the nineteenth verse, where the marginal note alloweth disobedience unto kings; and 2 Chron. xv. 16, the note taxeth Asa for deposing his mother only, and not killing her."

It is not necessary to defend the Genevan Bible against the royal critic. On the real excellence of the translation enough has been said already, and the two notes quoted as dangerous do not need any apology. The narrative well illustrates the conflicting views of two parties, for the quotations given by Dr. Reynolds are from the Great Bible and the Bishops' Bible, and in each case the rendering is corrected in the Genevan version. On the one side, therefore, the Genevan Bible is the standard by which the translations are tried; on the other, the faults and the dangerous teaching of this same version are taken as the ground for a new translation. It is not improbable that the scheme would have fallen to the ground had it not harmonized so completely with the king's turn of mind and favourite pursuits. When Convocation met, shortly after the conference, not a word appears to have been said on the subject. A letter from the king to Bancroft, dated July 22nd, 1604, gives us our earliest information, but by this time the plans for the execution of the work seem to have been completely arranged. The king announces that he has chosen (chiefly, we may suppose, on the nomination of the universities) fifty-four translators to meet in various companies at Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge, under the presidency of the Dean of Westminster and the two Hebrew Professors. Bancroft is required to take steps, in conjunction with the other bishops, for providing the translators