

Rev. Mr. Lewis, says of him, "He expressed a great sense of religion, and wrote like one that lived in the fear of God, and was very desirous of promoting his honour and glory;" and it is impossible to read Caxton's repeated expressions of his own mind and feeling without endorsing this opinion of his biographer. We see the frank-hearted, always free-speaking man constantly, whenever he had any project in hand, committing the undertaking to the Divine guidance—often putting up a simple prayer that he may be enabled to bring the work to a good end, "to the honour and glory of Almighty God." It is quite true that he did print a considerable number of books of the chivalrous, heroic, and romantic kind, and he shows, moreover, by the selection he made, and by his remarks concerning them, that he had a genuine taste, a true Englishman's liking, for feats of chivalry and dauntless daring, as well as for the details of courtly splendour and luxurious display; and we only say that, for our part, we like him none the worse for that. In judging him, however, we are bound to take into consideration the facts of his position. He was in favour with many of the frequenters of the court; they were his first patrons and his best, and the constant encouragers of his unwearied industry, and he naturally consulted their taste and wishes, and supplied them with such books as they would approve and pay for; if he had not done so he would certainly have forfeited their favour, and perhaps have lapsed into poverty. How was it, many have asked, that Caxton, the first English printer, did not print the Bible? The question is a pertinent one, seeing that England was then without the Bible, and that on the Continent the printing of the Bible had been going on from the first discovery of the art, and had produced most important results. The answer, however, is not far to seek. The Bible at that particular period could not be safely printed by any one in England. Caxton knew the feeling of the priesthood on this subject quite well. Before he left