

CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE,

AND MISSIONARY REGISTER.

No. 3.

AUGUST, 1887.

VOL. I.

WILLIAM TYNDALE,

TRANSLATOR OF THE FIRST PRINTED ENGLISH BIBLE.

If a nation's greatness be promoted by the labours of its statesmen and philosophers, and its gratitude be shewn by the veneration in which it holds their memory, with what feelings should Christians regard those talented and devoted men, who, possessing the key of knowledge, have opened the treasures of heavenly wisdom to those who desire to attain them. In the dark ages of Popery, it is well known that the Scriptures were locked up in the learned languages, under the pretence that they were unfit or too sacred for the perusal of the common people; an effectual mode of keeping them in ignorance, and maintaining the authority of an arrogant priesthood.

William Tyndale was born on the borders of Wales, a short time before the year 1500, but the precise date is not known; neither is any thing found on record respecting the place of his nativity, his parentage, or his early life. It would seem, however, that in that ignorant age he had made unusual progress in learning, for, being designed for the church, he was sent to Oxford and entered at Magdalen Hall in that University, where,

it is said, he read private lectures on divinity to some of the students. He removed, afterwards, to Wolsey's new College of Christ Church. Here his natural acuteness and extensive learning soon discovered to him the corruption of the church and the general truth of Luther's doctrines; and he openly embraced and defended the sentiments of that eminent reformer. On this account he was, in that age of violence, expelled from Oxford before he had taken his degree. Removing immediately to Cambridge, he pursued with vigour his studies in that University, and continued there till he had taken his degree. He then engaged himself as Tutor in the family of Sir John Welsh, and while there, he translated the *Enchiridion Militis Christiani* of Erasmus, for the use of the family. He was desirous of imparting to his pupils, not only general instruction, but also the knowledge and love of the principles which he had embraced and deemed so important. He frequently preached in the city of Bristol, and at other places in the vicinity; and was made eminently useful to Sir John Welsh, his family, and many others around him. While