

DECEMBER 1889.

The
Theological Monthly

ON FRENCH VERSIONS OF THE
SCRIPTURES.

IT was about a century after the time of Wycliffe that the *Editio Princeps* of the Scriptures in French made its appearance. The volume bears no date but is believed to have been printed about 1478. The work was mainly done by Guiars des Moulins, a priest of Picardy.

About half a century later, while Tyndale was engaged on his translation into English and Luther simultaneously on his German Version, an anonymous French version also was in course of publication. These three translations were all brought out portion by portion, precedence being given to the New Testament. In one important particular however this French version, like its predecessor of 1478, was inferior to those brought out in England and Germany: it was not made from the original languages, but from the Vulgate. When this version was complete—which, though unnamed, tradition assigns to Jacques Lefèvre d'Étaples—it was printed and published by Martin Lempereur at Antwerp in 1530 “cum Gratia et Privilegio Imperiali.” Doubtless Charles V. favoured this edition as a sort of antidote to the heretical character of Luther's work. The title of the volume begins:—“La Sainte Bible. en Francoys translatee selon la pure et entiere