

the Bible is now some 3,375 years old. Where will you find loftier flights of eloquence than in Isaiah, grander poetry than in Job, sweeter lyrics than the Psalms of David, more graphic history than in the Books of the Kings, more profound reasoning than that of Paul of Tarsus? Fiction never invented stories so interesting as the lives of Joseph, Samuel, David, and Daniel. As for the life of Jesus Christ, as Giesie remarks, it must ever remain the noblest and most fruitful study for all men, of every age. The great Napoleon said of it, "I defy you to cite another life like that of Christ."

"Do you really believe the Bible to be true?" said an infidel to an aged Christian lady. "Indeed I do," was the reply, "and let me tell you, sir, if you had known the author of it as long as I have, you would believe it too." The Bible has upon it the stamp of divinity—the imprimatur of God. The longer one studies it the more does one admire it, and implicitly believe it to be indeed the Word of God. Not a single statement in the Bible has ever been disproved. Science has often assailed it, but always in vain. Modern discoveries in Bible lands have been so numerous, and in every instance so corroborative of the sacred text, that hostile criticism from that quarter may be said to have retired vanquished from the field. The very stones of Nineveh and Babylon, and Bashan, and Sinai have been heard crying out, "the Old Testament Scriptures are true!" The debris of villages and towns, the hills, the rivers, the lakes, in Palestine, and the ruined cities of Asia attest the truth of the New Testament.

The History of the Bible, apart from its sacred origin, is a subject full of interest for every Christian. The Book is the growth of many generations. For centuries it consisted of the five books of Moses, which were deposited in "the holy of holies," in the side of the ark. According to Jewish tradition the Old Testament canon was not completed until the time of Ezra, 450 B. C. Originally written in Hebrew, it was translated into Chaldee during the period of the Babylonish captivity. In the year 285, B. C., owing to the prevalence of the Greek language, the celebrated translation known as the "Septuagint" was executed by a company of learned Alexandrian Jews and was

so called from a tradition that it was made in seventy-two days by seventy-two Jewish scholars. When the Greek language in turn gave way to that of Rome, the Septuagint was superseded by the "Latin Vulgate," translated by Jerome in the end of the fourth century, and which is still the "authorized version" of the Church of Rome. The first book ever printed from type was a copy of this Latin Bible. The whole of the New Testament, with the exception of Matthew's gospel, was originally written in Greek. The books composing it were collected together about the middle of the third century. They were formally accepted and ratified by the Council of Carthage, A. D. 397, and since that time have remained unchanged. John Wicliffe, "the morning star of the Reformation" translated the Latin Vulgate into English. He completed his noble task in the year 1380. This was England's first Bible and her only one for a hundred and thirty years. Then came Tyndale's printed Bible, translated from the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, which furnished the basis of all the English editions that followed until the appearance of our own authorized version in 1611. One of the best books that has been published on this subject, since the Revision Company commenced their labours, is "The Historic Origin of the Bible," by Edwin C. Bissell, New York; Anson, Randolph & Co.; 1873. price \$2.50.

Trinidad

1883.

On April, on the retirement of the Rev. Thomas Christie on account of ill-health, I, in accordance with the appointment of the Mission Council, took charge of Couva, assisted by Babu Lal Behari. We continued the work just in Mr. Christie's lines, with a slight change in the staff. In addition to the school work, we aimed at and succeeded in keeping up all the religious services. This we felt bound to do, as the proprietors continued their monthly donation of \$100, even though the missionary was not in the field. To accomplish this we removed one of our most earnest workers into Couva, who visited the hospitals, and estates and made