

pasted on their blank side, are forty in number, like the plates. Each plate or page contains four busts, two at the top and two at the bottom, together with three historical subjects; the two upper busts represent the prophets or other persons whose names are always given beneath them; the two lower busts are without names. The middle of the plates, which are all marked by letters of the alphabet in the centre of the upper compartment (probably the origin of the signatures now used by printers) is occupied by three historical pictures, one of which is taken from the New Testament. This is the type or principal subject, and occupies the centre of the page between the two antitypes or other subjects which allude to it. The inscriptions which occur at the top and bottom of the page, consist of texts of Scripture and Leonine Latin verses.

There have been several editions of this curious work; the fifth contains fifty plates. The figures in general are coarsely formed, as might be expected in the infancy of the art. The texts of Scripture and the Latin verses have many contractions in printing, as was the custom of the age. The plates are supposed to have been executed between the years 1420 and 1435.

How superior are the advantages of the present day to those which our forefathers enjoyed. Instead of block-books, and rude figures, and fanciful interpretations, and legendary tales, we have the word of God in its purity and entireness, so that the *whole* of the sacred volume is *now* the *Bible of the poor*; By the Reformation from Popery its pages were thrown open to general inspection; and by improvements in the art of printing, both with moveable types and in stereotype, aided by the benevolent exertions of Christians of all denominations, the Bible is placed within

the reach of every poor man who desires to possess so great a treasure. "Say not thou...that the former days were better than these."

THE BLESSING OF GOD UPON THE PERUSAL OF HIS WORD.

NO. VII.

Dr. Olinthus Gregory relates the following visit which he paid to a poor man greatly afflicted:—"On entering the cottage, I found him alone; his wife having gone to procure him milk from a kind neighbour. I was startled at the sight of a pale-faced man, a living image of death, fastened up in his chair by a rude mechanism of cords hanging from the ceiling. He had been for four years deprived of the use of his limbs; yet at the same time suffering extreme anguish from swellings at all his joints. As soon as I recovered a little from my surprise at seeing so pitiful an object, I asked, 'Are you left alone, my friend, in this deplorable situation?' 'No, Sir,' replied he, in a touchingly feeble tone of mild resignation, (nothing but his lips and eyes moving while he spake,) 'I am not left alone, for God is with me.' On advancing, I soon found the secret of this striking declaration; for his wife had left on his knees, propped with a cushion formed for the purpose, a BIBLE, lying open at a favourite portion of the Psalms of David. I sat down by him, and conversed with him. On ascertaining that he had a small weekly allowance certain, I inquired how the remainder of his wants were supplied.—'Why,' said he, 'tis true, as you say, seven shillings a week would never support us; but, when it is gone, I rely upon the promise I find in this book, *Bread shall be given him, and his water shall be sure!*' I asked him, if he ever felt tempted to repine under the pressure of so long-continued and heavy a calamity? 'Not