

The friends of the *Christian Banner* may therefore rejoice that it is physically in a more healthy condition than many periodicals which have had better opportunities. And though its "outward man" may not be like Paul's, which perished, yet we trust its "inward man" may be "renewed" day by day or month by month. That many of our real friends and helpers are becoming more punctual in their endeavors to hold up our hands, is a pleasing and hopeful fact. Others who learn not as fast, and whose sympathies are of a different mould, will perhaps do better in days to come. Old fashioned christians rejoiced *in hope*—we too have hope and joy in it. D. O.

THE BIBLE.

The Bible has been copied during three thousand years, as no other book ever has been. It has also shared the captivities of Israel, and the exterminating persecutions of the first Christians; it has gone through the darkness of the middle ages; it has been driven to the cells of the monks, and from all it has come forth like the children from the fiery furnace, with not a hair of its head touched. It fell into the hands of the Romanist church, that great corrupter of everything she touches—and that church had a powerful interest to obliterate those strokes with which it sketches her portrait as that of the great apostacy—and yet it has come forth from her hands unscathed.

All the libraries of the world have been ransacked for various copies and versions; and though all the manuscripts from the third to the sixteenth century, have been examined a thousand times by innumerable critics, many of whom had the impulse of a keen desire to discredit the divine record, they have discovered not a solitary reading which could cast a doubt on any passage before considered certain.

Forty years ago, Claudius Buchanan, while in India, found in the possession of the black Jews of Malabar, supposed to be a remnant of the dispersion by Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion, an immense roll 43 feet long and 22 inches wide, upon which a portion of the Scriptures had been copied by different hands. He procured and deposited it in the Cambridge Library. This was compared letter for letter with a printed copy of the Hebrew Bible. And it was found, that between the Hebrew text now in use in the West, and that manuscript so long used in the East, there were only forty petty differences, not one of which made the slightest change in the meaning of the text.

This work of making a thorough search of manuscripts was made necessary by Rationalists; but it has resulted in their unanimous confession that they can gain no advantage from that quarter. Let none, then, be disturbed in his reliance on the infallible truth of the written record, by the pretence that errors of the transcribers have corrupted it. Its wonderful preservation from error in these circumstances is a mark of its divinity. A divine hand must have guarded it in all the way of its conveyance to us.—*Mother's Journal.*