

ANCIENT BIBLE RULES FOR READING, &c.

BROTHER OLIPHANT :—I have before me a venerable book. The title page of the Old Testament is gone, but that to the New reads as follows “The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, translated out of Greek by *Theod. Beza*: Englished by *L. Tomson*. Imprinted at London by the deputies of Christopher Barber; printer to the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty 1599.” The first edition of this Bible was printed in 1583. The common version was published in 1611.

In copying the synopsis, I have changed only the orthography. Some words are so much obliterated that I had to “guess” them. If you can find room for the poetry, prayer, and synopsis, it may please some of your antiquarian readers and benefit all.

Yours in the Lord,

W. W. EATON.

St. John, 3d Sept.

OF THE INCOMPARABLE TREASURE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES,

WITH A PRAYER FOR THE TRUE USE OF THE SAME.

Here is the spring where waters flow, to quench our heat of sin :
 Here is the tree where truth doth grow, to lead our lives therein :
 Here is the judge that stints the strife, when men’s devices fail :
 Here is the bread that feeds the life, that death cannot assail.
 The tidings of salvation dear, comes to our ears from hence :
 The fortress of our faith is here, and shield of our defense.
 Then be not like the hog that hath a pearl at his desire,
 And takes more pleasure in the trough and wallowing in the mire.
 Read not this book in any case, but with a single eye :
 Read not but first desire God’s grace, to understand thereby.
 Pray still in faith with this respect, to fructify therein,
 That knowledge may bring this effect, to mortify thy sin.
 Then happy thou in all thy life, what so to thee befall :
 Yea, double happy shalt thou be, when God by death thee calls.

O gracious God and most merciful Father, which hast vouchsafed us the rich and precious jewel of thy holy word, assist us with thy Spirit, that it may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to thine own image, to build us up, and edify us into the perfect building of thy Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

HOW TO TAKE PROFIT IN READING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Earnestly and usually pray unto God that he will vouchsafe to—
Teach the way of his statutes.
Give understanding.