

printer the greater part of the New Testament in the language of the Dakotas. It was a consecrated room.

I went to New York City and was, the next seven months, engaged in getting through the press the grammar and dictionary of the Dakota language.

(Of the various hindrances and delays, and of the burning of the printing office in which the work was in progress, and the loss of quite a number of pages of the book which had to be again made up, I need not speak. They are ordinary incidents. Early in the summer of 1852 the work was done—and done I believe to the satisfaction of all parties. It has obtained the commendation of literary men generally, and it was said that for no volume published by the Smithsonian Institution, up to that time, was the demand so great as for that. It is now out of print and the book can only be bought at fancy prices.

The question of republication is sometimes talked of, but no steps have been taken yet to accomplish the object. While as the years have gone by, and the book has been tested by Dakota scholars and found to be all that was ever claimed for it, yet, in case of a republication some valuable additions can be made to the sixteen thousand words which it contains. The language itself is growing. Never probably in its whole history, has it grown so much in any quarter of a century as it has in the twenty-five years since the dictionary was published. Besides, we have recently been learning more of the Teton dialect, which is spoken by more than half of the whole Sioux nation. And as the translation of the Bible has progressed, thoughts and images have been brought in which have given the language an unction and power unknown to it before.

PROGRESS.

The various steps of progress in translating the Bible are not distinctly traced, but the general outline is given as follows:

Late in the fall of 1839 the Gospel of Mark and some other small portions were ready to be printed, and Dr. Williamson went with his family to Ohio where he spent the winter. The next printing of portions of the Bible was done in 1842-'3, when Dr. Williamson had completed a translation of the book of Genesis. We had now commenced to translate from the Hebrew and Greek. This was continued through all the years of our missionary life. So far as I can remember there was no arrangement of work between the Doctor and myself, but while I commenced the New Testament, and having completed that, turned to the Psalms, and having finished to the end of Malachi, made some steps backward through Job, Esther, Nehemiah and Ezra, he, commencing with Genesis, closed his work in the last months of his life with Second Chronicles, having taken in also the book of Proverbs.

Before leaving the subject of Bible translation let me bear testimony to the uniform kindness and courtesy which Dr. Williamson extended to me through all this work of more than forty years. It could hardly be said of either of us that we were very yielding. The Doctor was a man of positive opinions, and there were abundant opportunities in prosecuting our joint work for differences of judgment. But while we freely criticised, each the other's work, we freely yielded to each other the right of ultimate decision.

In the latter part of 1863, Mr. Riggs devoted himself to a revision and completion of the New Testament, and in the following autumn he spent three months in the Bible House, reading the proof of the New Testament. Dr. Williamson had also added a revised Genesis and Proverbs, and the Bible Society began at that time to make electrotype plates of the version.

The multiplication of Dakota readers during the next few years gave a new impulse to the work of translating the Scriptures, and by 1870, the Psalms, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, and Isaiah, together with the other four books of Moses, were added to what had been printed five years before. In the summer of 1872 the book of Daniel was translated, and in the winter that followed the first copy of the Minor Prophets was made.