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EARLY BIBLE PRINTING IN AMERICA.

At a late meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, an abstract of an interesting essay on "The First American Edition of the English Bible," from the Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Murray, of Carlisle, was read. Although many of our readers may be well acquainted with much of what is here related, yet we believe the article will be acceptable to very many.

Although it was in 1497 that our country had been discovered to England by Cabot, under Henry VII., yet the first permanent colony did not arrive till 1607, on the coast of Virginia—the very year in which our present version of the Bible was commenced in the mother country. In 1620 the sturdy and virtuous "Pilgrim Fathers," having their English Bibles with them, reached their New England home. And during almost the entire reign of eight sovereigns in succession the Sacred Volume had been uniformly imported. During all that time not a man or family possessed an English Bible—not a copy was read or heard read—that had not been brought across the Atlantic. True, the printing press had been set up in our land as early as 1639, and though other books were printed, yet the early settlers could not print the English Bible without being subjected to a prosecution from those in England and Scotland, who published it by a patent from the Crown, or *cum privilegio*, as did the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge (1). Nor did the mother country—guilty of such restriction or monopoly—ever grant this permission to her