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A BIBLE TERCENTENARY.

Efforts are now being made through correspondence to perfect arrangements for the observance throughout the English-speaking Protestant world of the tercentenary of the King James version of the Bible. The plan now favored is to have a celebration on the same day by clergymen, churches, colleges and schools, and a feature of that comprehensive occasion will be the exhibition of rare copies of the book, where that is feasible.

The propriety of the proposed event few will question. No other version of the Holy Scriptures has been identified so long and so vitally with the history of English Protestantism as this. Of the making of versions there was hardly any end. The most prominent of its immediate predecessors was, perhaps, the Great Bible, so called because of its size. It was planned by Thomas Cromwell and published in 1539, and copies of it were ordered placed in the parish churches, that all who desired might read. The last years of the reign of King Henry VIII. were directed against any further efforts to popularize the Bible, but his pious successor, Edward VI., caused seventy-five thousand copies to be printed and freely circulated. The reign of Queen Mary drove it into retirement again. In 1568 the joint labors of eight English bishops produced what was known as the Bishops' Bible.

Neither of these continued to be entirely satisfactory, and at the Hampton Court Conference of 1604 King James I. was petitioned to permit the Genevan Bible to be substituted, or else an authorization of an entirely new translation of the Scriptures. Perhaps we are indebted to that monarch's pedantic fancy that the latter proposition found instant favor with him. Perhaps no other act of sovereignty invested his reign with more credit than this. The work was done by a commission of forty-seven members, acting under his general direction. It was completed and published in 1611, with a duly fulsome dedication to its great patron. For a time the Genevan Bible was a strong rival, but at the end of fifty years the new one practically had the field to itself among English speaking peoples.

During all the subsequent years it has been the anchor of faith for the whole Protestant world. The revised version, which was completed in 1885, has doubtless had the benefit of deeper research and profounder scholarship, and though widely criticised at first, it has been steadily making its way into general acceptance. But there are many among those not yet old who would regret the displacement of the old version. Its influence upon life and literature has been immeasurable. Even though the new version may be preferred for its probably greater accuracy, the old one must continue to find a place of honor in every complete library for the loftiness of its style and the beauty of its imagery.

THE NEW JAPANESE TARIFF.

Certain of the Tokio papers allege that the Japanese Government will be compelled to submit a bill to the next session of the Diet to revise the tariff law, which comes into force from July 17th, 1911, in view of continued British criticisms. One of them goes on to assert that there is no way open to Japan other than revising the new tariff, in order to meet British objections, and ventures to predict that the tariff question will eventually affect the Ministerial position.

Another Tokio journal, however, quotes the authorities concerned as saying the new tariff was framed in consideration of the national revenue and the development of productive industries as well as of the commercial relations not only with Great Britain, but also with other Powers. Thus the new tariff, duly drafted and promulgated, cannot be so easily revised. The presumption is strong that the Japanese Government has no intention of introducing a bill into the next session of the Legislature to amend the tariff.

While discrediting the above rumor, an English paper in Yokohama understands that some steps are being taken in London with reference to the tariff question, but does not state in what manner action is being taken. It is stated in Tokio that the Government is inclined to endeavor to devise some remedy or other for any cases of anti-British discrimination, if such cases can be proved to exist. For its own part, it holds that there are no such cases.

EXPERIMENTS WITH ALFALFA.

Reports on the cultivation of alfalfa are of more than ordinary interest in New Brunswick in view of the fact that recent experiments have proved that it can be successfully grown in this province. Among grasses it has few, if any, superiors, and it is the acknowledged king of forage plants. Stories of its yield which come from across the border, from Kansas, and States farther West read almost like Jack's beanstalk, but there can be no doubt that the potentiality of alfalfa is all that is claimed for it.

In a recent bulletin issued by the Industrial Department of the Maine Central Railroad, details are given of an experiment made on the State Hospital Farm near Concord, New Hampshire, which go to show that under proper management prodigious crops can be secured in New England, and there seems no valid reason why, with care, there should not be an equal yield in New Brunswick.

The experimenter was Mr. William W. Gordon, connected with the outdoor management of the hospital. He sowed the seed near the end of April in light land with a sandy subsoil, which had previously been well prepared and fertilized with a good brand of potato fertilizer at the rate of a thousand pounds to the acre. Air-slacked lime was added at the rate of two tons to the acre, and inoculated soil from a piece of ground in which a few alfalfa plants had been growing for three years for experimental purposes was scattered over and harrowed in. The seed itself was soaked in nitro-culture and lightly covered.

Of course this involved painstaking and a knowledge of conditions, but so does almost every enterprise that is successful. On July 8, the first crop was cut, at least a ton and a half to the acre. On August 5, another crop equally as good was secured, the growth of the stalks being eighteen inches in fourteen days by actual measurement. The third cutting was on Sept. 8, with as good results, and eleven days later the new growth looked as hopeful as any in the season, but it was thought better to let it fall and protect the roots during the winter. As it was, a burden equal to four and a half tons to the acre was harvested.

It is obvious that what was done there could be done in scores, if not hundreds of other places in New England. The farmers in this province might well turn their attention to intelligent and careful experiments with alfalfa. An abundant yield will mean more than corn to the dairymen and stock raisers.

THE DEADLOCK IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The present chaotic situation in British politics leads the Detroit News to suggest that the trouble might all have been avoided if an initiative and referendum law were in force. "While we yield much to Great Britain on the score of government," says the News, "we are in a position, as a people, to commiserate her on her present incapacity to meet the issue of the power of the Lords without a prolonged deadlock. Successive elections and protracted quadrennial elections with their turmoil and complexity may be burdensome, but complaint cannot come with good grace from the British, who have furnished us with a notable example of how not to submit a question to the people.

"Premier Asquith has retired from the recent constitutional conference on the Lords, defeated in his hopes to reach a compromise on the veto question. The present programme embraces an immediate meeting of Parliament, a re-submission of the issue to both Houses, another deadlock with the House of Lords, and a new election for December. And the English elections are not all held on the same day, but drag on from borough to borough for nearly a month, with the public nerves kept on edge beyond endurance.

"Several obvious features characterize the situation. The Irish Nationalists, without whom the government would be lacking a working majority, failed to seize their opportunity to demand first consideration of the Irish question. A new appeal to the country by Asquith may result in the return of the Liberals to power with a majority of their own, in which case the Irish will have gained nothing.

"At the last British elections the constitutional issue was mixed with the free trade issue, the Irish issue and the Lloyd-George land tax issue, the latter almost overshadowing the other three. What the verdict of the people was on this mixed balloting no one was able to say. The voice of the people lent itself badly to interpretation. So, with all their elections, all their bickerings, conferences and deadlocks, the Government is about to appeal anew to the people with the issues as mixed as before. A referendum alone could adequately determine the sentiment of the people, but the British seem unacquainted with that simple device."

The point taken by the News has more than once been discussed by leaders of public opinion in the Old Country. At the time of the last general election, it will be remembered, Lord Rosebery practically expressed himself in favor of the initiative and referendum.

Current Comment

(Woodstock Sentinel Review.)

We notice in an American paper that American women—society women especially—are taking to the nursing of toy babies. The new toy which is known as the bisque baby, had its origin in Paris, of course, and is designed as a doll for grown-ups. It is said to be most properly displayed at receptions and automobile parties. "When brought into the domestic circle, judiciously wrapped in a blanket and correctly cradled in a motherly arm, it produces an undeniable impression." No doubt it will help to serve the purpose of keeping alive some traces of the maternal instinct in fashionable circles where children are unfashionable.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Republicans had scarcely got over laughing at the manner in which a monarchy was turned down in Portugal by revolutionists, when quite an able-bodied revolution commenced in the republic of Mexico, which tends to point the remark that monarchies are by no means the sole sufferers from these eruptions. About the biggest one of the sort that the world ever saw occurred in the United States not many years ago, and was only prevented from being a successful revolution by four years of bloody warfare.

(Toronto Star.)

In English municipal politics, it seems to be supposed that the more experience a city official has the better equipped he should be for further service. The Mayor of Bacup has recently been elected for the twelfth time, the Mayor of Montgomery for the twelfth time, and the Mayor of Dover for the thirteenth time.

(Chatham World.)

In the debate on the address, Mr. Foster replied to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. This does not harmonize with the silly Transcript-Mail-Telegraph announcements regarding Mr. Foster's having been relegated to a back seat in the Opposition ranks.

(Toronto Star.)

A local judge has found that an Ontario man who got married at the age of 80 is quite sane. It is very likely. A man ought to know something about women after having them under his observation for four score years.

(Edmonton Journal.)

A German critic does not think that the British army need be taken seriously. Several other persons have made that mistake in the past.

(Vancouver World.)

Aviation has given us a new figure of speech:—"Lost in the zenith," a euphonious companion for "sank from sight below the horizon."

(Quebec Telegraph.)

A prominent temperance worker has asked for forgiveness for the daily papers. He should see some of the weeklies.

First thing in the morning, ensure a clear head for your day's work. Before breakfast, drink MAGI THE WATER OF QUALITY

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Continued from page 3.

o'clock. The proceeds were very satisfactory.

One of the largest audiences listened to the most fascinating lecture on Wednesday afternoon at the Natural History Rooms, Union street. The subject chosen was Wagner's Parsival, nd the lecturer Mrs. George Matthew. The lecture throughout was beautifully musically illustrated by the different motifs. The beautiful music was well rendered by Mrs. J. M. Barnes, Miss Davidson, Mrs. Moore and Mr. D. Arnold Fox. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Matthew and she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of chrysanthemums.

Every year as "Scotch Nicht" draws near practices are held for the Scotch Reels, schotisches, etc. The first one was held at the residence of Mrs. Malcolm MacKay, Orange street, last evening. Excellent music was provided by Mr. Gibson. A delightful evening was spent by all present.

Miss Whittaker, Dorchester street, entertained at the tea hour on Friday afternoon. Miss Whittaker received the guests in a green silk dress. Her sister, Mrs. J. Hunter White, received with her. Miss Lou Howard took the guests into the dining room. The table which was prettily decorated for the occasion, was presided over by Mrs. George M. Campbell and Mrs. Howard. The color scheme was green and white. The waitresses were Miss Winnie Fairweather, Miss Ella Smith, Miss Mabel Thomson, Miss Jennie Clark and Miss Helen Macmichael. Miss Annie Whittaker served the ice cream.

The engagement is announced of Miss Emily Keillor Emmerson, daughter of Hon. H. R. Emmerson, M. P., to Mr. Julian I. Cornell, of Amherst. The marriage will take place in December.

The high tea and sale held in Keith's Assembly Rooms this week was a great success. The rooms were beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the games' room was well patronized. Friday afternoon was children's day. The sale practically closed on Thursday evening.

Today is the day in town for the Netherwood pupils. A great many of the students will spend Sunday with their parents. Some of the girls have friends for the week-end.

Mrs. H. C. Rankine returned home yesterday from Montreal.

Miss Elva Machum, of St. John, is the guest of Miss Roberta Grimmer, Calais.

Dr and Mrs. McVey leave today for Europe.

Mrs. Robert Wisely, Mt. Pleasant, gave a large reception on Thursday evening for her daughter, Miss Roberta Wisely. Mrs. Wisely was handsomely gowned in black satin with sequin trimmings. Miss Roberta Wisely was gowned in white chiffon over white satin and carried a large bouquet of pink and white roses. Mrs. John Bullock and Mrs. H. H. Pickett presided at the tea table. Mrs. Dowling and Mrs. Gordon Dickie served the ice cream. Those who waited were Miss Gertrude de Bury, Miss Audrey Bullock, Miss Sylvia Stockton, Miss Nora Knight, Miss Ella Smith and Miss Vida Stockton.

The invitations have been issued for the series of assembly dances. The dances will be held December 8th, January 12th and February 9th.

Miss Jean McDonald, Coburg street, entertained at a large "bridge" yesterday afternoon. Mrs. McDonald gowned in black satin, sequin trimmings, Mrs. Ernest Bowman in white silk, and Miss Jean McDonald in green satin, large lace flounce and lace yoke received the many guests. The prizes were won by Mrs. Harold C. Schofield, Mrs. Arthur Bowman and Miss Ethel Robertson. The guests were: Mrs. Harry Harrison, Mrs. Verner McLennan, Mrs. Pollard Lewin, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Wm. Vassie, jr., Mrs. Louis Barker, Mrs. Harold Schofield, Mrs. Arthur Bowman, Miss Katie Hazen, Miss Lou Girvan, Miss Jean Trueman, Miss Helen Church, Miss Marion Macaulay, Miss Ethel Emerson, Miss Janie Stone, Miss Vera Maclaughlin, Miss Mary MacLaren, Miss Ethel Robertson, Miss Frances Hazen, Miss Bertha Macaulay, Miss Lou McMillan, Miss Minnie Girvan, Miss Clara Schofield, Miss Grace Fisher, Miss Bertie Hegan, Miss Kathleen Trueman, Miss Eunice Macaulay, Miss Nora Robinson, Miss Jean White, Miss Maizie Roberts, Miss Lillie Raymond, Miss Vivien Barnes, Miss Lydie Kimbal, Miss Winifred Raymond, Miss Gertrude de Bury, Miss Kathleen Magee, and Miss Gladys Hegan. Among those who came in for tea at five o'clock were Miss Nettie Bridges, Miss Edith Magee and Miss Marjorie Barnaby.

Only a Month Now.

The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things, of ships and shoes and sealing wax and cabbages and kings. And in a month it will all be over. When you begin your talk of Christmas gifts remember 55 King street. Do you know the place? Whose is it?

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