

THE BIBLE READER.

AN ANECDOTE.

The witty Earl of Rochester being once in company with King Charles II, his queen, chaplain, and Ministers of State, after they had been discoursing on public business, the King suddenly exclaimed "let our thoughts be unbended from the cares of State, and give us a glass of generous wine, that cheereth, as the Scripture saith, both God and man." The Queen modestly said she thought there could be no such text in Scripture; and the idea was little less than blasphemy. The King replied that he was not prepared to turn to chapter and verse, but he was sure he had met with it in his Scripture reading. The Chaplain was appealed to, and he was of the same opinion with the Queen. Rochester suspecting that the King was right, and being no friend to the Chaplain, slipped out of the room to enquire among the servants, if any among them were conversant with the Bible. They named David the Scotch Cook, who always carried a Bible about him; and David being called, recollecting the text, and where to find it. Rochester ordered him to be in waiting, and returned to the King. This text was still the topic of conversation, and Rochester moved to call in David, who, he said, he found was well acquainted with the Scriptures. David appeared, and being asked the question, produced his Bible and read the text. (Judges ix 13) The King smiled, the Queen asked pardon, and the Chaplain blushed. Rochester now asked the Chaplain if he could interpret the text since it was produced, but he was mute. The Earl therefore applied to David for the exposition, who immediately replied, "How much wine cheereth the heart of man, your Lordship knows; and as to its cheering God—under the Old Testament Dispensation there were meat offerings and drink offerings; the latter consisted of wine, which was typical of the blood of the Mediator, which, by a metaphor, was said to cheer God, as he was well-pleased in the way of salvation he had appointed; whereby his justice was satisfied, his law fulfilled, his mercy reigned, his grace triumphed, all the Divine perfection harmonized, the sinner was saved, and God in Christ glorified." The King was agreeably surprised at this evangelical exposition, Rochester applauded, and after some severe reflections upon the Chaplain, very gravely moved, that His Majesty would be pleased to make the Chaplain his cook, and the Cook his Chaplain.

MAYNOOTH.—We look upon the Popish Hierarchy in England as but a mote in the sunbeam compared with the Priest manufactory of Maynooth—an establishment in which, at this moment, there are 500 men being prepared for the diabolical work of perverting the human understanding, misguiding the nation, and destroying the souls of men! There is a delusion connected with the position of Maynooth; across the Channel it is removed from the British eye; but let them conceive of its existence in Southwark, in the vicinity of, and as an appendage to the Romish Cathedral of the Prince of the Scarlet Hat, and that £30,000 per annum, was being given for its maintenance, what would the people of England say to that? Would they not then see how utterly preposterous it is in the Assembly of St. Stephen's, to-day, to attempt to legislate for the repression of Popery, and to-morrow to vote this immense sum out of the Imperial Treasury for its maintenance? Let it be known further, that the support of a batch of Popish bishops with their clergy, is a very insignificant affair compared with the support an institution as Maynooth. In the one case, the salary extends to the support of individuals only to enable them to carry on the labours of darkening in a given locality, but, in supporting Maynooth, the action thus sustained is extended to every part of the civilized world.

Nor should it be lost sight of, that this endowment involves another; the more priests are sent forth from Maynooth, the more priests are to be supported in the Colonies, where both Popish bishops and clergy are regularly and every where salaried. It was but the other day we met with an estimable and intelligent gentleman, who had just returned from the Mauritius, and who informed, that there was there a bishop with a staff of priests receiving from the British Government the goodly sum of £2,500 per annum! It really saddens the heart, which understands the subject, to meditate on such inconsistencies, and we do trust there will be forthwith a universal movement among the Protestants of England for the withdrawal, not only of this grant to Maynooth, but the immediate cessation of all grants whatsoever throughout the Colonies.—*British Banner.*

THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK.—It is a remarkable and most interesting fact, that the very first use to which the discovery of printing was applied was the production of the Holy Bible. This was accomplished at Menz between the years 1450 and 1455. Gutenberg was the inventor of the art, and Faust, a goldsmith, furnished the necessary funds. Had it been a single page, or even an entire sheet, which was then produced, there might have been less occasion to have noticed it; but there was something in the whole character of the affair, which, if not unprecedented, rendered it singular in the usual current of human events. This Bible was in two folio volumes, which have been justly praised for the strength and beauty of the paper, the exactness of the register and the lustre of the ink. The work contained twelve hundred and eighty two pages, and being the first ever printed, of course involved a long period of time, and an immense amount of manual, and mechanical labour; and yet, for a long time after it had been finished and offered for sale, not a single human being, save the artists themselves, knew how it had been accomplished.

Of the first printed Bible, eighteen copies are now known to be in existence, four of which are printed on vellum. Two of these are in England one being in the Grenville collection, one in the Royal Library of Berlin, and one in the Royal Library of Paris. Of the fourteen remaining copies, ten are in England—there being a copy in the Libraries of Oxford, Edinburgh and London, and seven in the collections of different noblemen. The vellum copy has been sold as high as \$1,300.

Thus as if to mark the noblest purpose to which the art would ever be applied, the first book printed with moveable metal type was the Bible.

SCHOOL AT HOCHELAGA.—The Protestant school in Hochelaga taught by Mr Henry, assisted by Mrs Henry, was examined on Thursday last in presence of two of the commissioners, Messrs Thompson and Brown, Rev Mr Rantoul of this city, Rev. Thomas Henry of Lachute, and several of the parents of the children. The books used in this school are those of the Irish Board, and on two days of the week the Holy Scriptures. The tidy appearance of the children, the good order, and thorough classification of the school, and especially the proficiency evinced in all the branches of a good elementary education, were most creditable to the teachers, and finely shewed with what success the culture of the young mind may be attended when it is prosecuted by those who bring at once knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the honorable work of teaching. One of the Rev. gentlemen present addressed the children at the close of the examination, and the other invoked on them and on their teachers the divine blessing.—*Montreal Witness.*

A PAINFUL FACT.—It is not many years since I entered the dwelling of a widow. I knew her to be the most active, capable, efficient, and devoted female member of a sister church, consistent and ready to every good word and work.—Judge what was my surprise to find her centre table covered with that class of magazines of the day which are mainly filled with the most exciting romances. In the presence of her daughter then just verging into womanhood, I expressed my surprise, and gently remonstrated with her, but, to my regret, she warmly defended her course and claimed that this class of literature was necessary to cultivate the taste and imagination.

I soon sought out her pastor, and he promised to counteract the poison if possible; but alas! In vain. She is now an expelled member of the church, and her Sabbaths are away from the house of God. Are not these the legitimate fruits of an indulgence in such reading? Had her reading been the works of Doddridge and Baxter, and Flavel and Owen, it would require no prophet's ken to tell how changed would now be the scene. An inspired prophet has pointedly inquired, Can a man take fire into his bosom and his clothes not be burned? We utter our unsparing reprobation of the man who deals out the intoxicating cup to our fellow men, but, we alas! take to our bosoms and to our churches the men around us who poison our families by these blighting and pernicious issues of the press. Let every Christian reader be warned to shun light reading, as he would the venom of the still. R. G. F.

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