

which, if he might review it once over again, as he had done twice before, he doubted not but to amend; but for any heresy, he was sure there was none maintained by his translation.* In April, 1540, the Book was published with Cranmer's preface, which henceforth was attached to all editions of the Great Bible. Three months later appeared another edition, which like the last, bore Cranmer's name on the title-page. In November of the same year the fourth edition was ready for issue, though not published until 1541. It appeared under very strange auspices, as the title will show; "The Byble in Englyshe of the largest and greatest volume, auctorysed and apoynted by the commaundemente of oure moost redoubted Prynce and Soueraygne Lorde Kyng Henrye the viii., supreme heade of this his Churche and Realme of Englande; to be frequented and used in every churche within this his sayd realme accordynge to the tenour of his former Iunctions geven in that behalfe. Oversedene and perused at the commaundement of the kynges hyghnes, by the ryghte reverende fathers in God Cuthbert bysshop of Duresmet and Nicholas bisshop of Rochester." It is probable that the association of Tunstall and Heath with this edition was little more than nominal. Lest the work in which Cromwell had taken so deep an interest should suffer after his fall, other names, representing widely different tendencies and sympathies, must give it warrant and authority. Three other editions were issued in 1541, one (November) similar to that just described, in its connection with the two bishops; two (May, December) bearing Cranmer's name upon the title-page. We are not told how large were the impressions of the later editions; but as the first edition consisted of 2,500 copies, we may reasonably conclude that the number circulated during these years of liberty was very large.

The liberty was too remarkable to be of long duration. Soon after Cromwell's disgrace the opposite party attempted to avail themselves of Coverdale's scheme for annotations on difficult texts (a scheme never carried into effect), for the purpose of checking altogether the printing of the Bible. Grafton indeed was committed to the Fleet, and bound under a heavy penalty not to print or sell any more Bibles until the king and clergy should agree on a translation. In 1542 Convocation, at the king's instance, arranged a plan for a new translation. The books of the New Testament were allotted to various bishops—St. Matthew, for instance, being taken by Cranmer, St. Luke by Gardiner, the Acts by Heath. The plan soon fell to the ground. When one of the translators (Bishop Gardiner) could propose that ninety-nine words, such as *panis propositionis* (shew-bread), *simulacrum* (image), *hostia* (victim), *ejice* (to cast out), should, "on account of their genuine and native meaning, and the majesty of the matter signified by them," be presented to the people in this Latin dress, it became very evident that the bishops had no real wish for a vernacular translation. The king now directed that the universities should be intrusted with the work, but the adverse influences had become sufficiently powerful to frustrate this design. About this time Anthony Marler, a halberdasher of London, who had borne the expenses of the earlier editions of the Great Bible, received from Henry a patent, conveying to him the exclusive right of printing the English Bible during four years. In 1543 the reading of the Scriptures was by Act of Parliament placed under very severe restrictions. The use of Tyndale's translations was entirely forbidden, and three years later Coverdale's Testament was placed under the same ban. Permission to read the Bible in English was accorded to certain classes only. Obedience to these injunctions was enforced by many penalties, and was still more effectually promoted by the zeal of the numerous opponents of the Reformation, who spared no pains to crush out the growing love for the Scriptures. On all sides the proscribed Bibles were sought for and destroyed. All the better traditions of earlier years were fast passing into oblivion, when the reaction was suddenly stayed by the death of the king in January, 1547.

* Fulke, *Defence of English Translations*, p. 98 (Parker Society).

† Cuthbert Tunstall, bishop of Durham.

‡ Nicholas Heath.