

The Nativity.

IN ROMANUS DOMINUS.
Nomen rex, nova lex.
Nova nativitas;
Nova dux: nova lux,
Nova ad salutem. — 1014 Hymn

Wyclif's Translations of the Bible.

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The history of our present translation of the Scriptures is closely connected with other translations that preceded it.

How seriously and earnestly Wyclif desired the free use of God's word by the people is manifest by his celebrated prayer at Lutterworth: "O Christ! Thy law is hidden in the sepulchre; when wilt Thou send Thy angel to remove the stone and show Thy truth unto Thy flock?"

John Wyclif was born in Yorkshire, near Richmond, in 1324. He lived to be sixty years old. He was in his day an eminent scholar of Oxford.

Wyclif's version is made not from the Hebrew and Greek originals, but from some Latin translation. Perhaps he compared several of these Latin renderings.

"Blessed be those men in spirit for the kingdom of heaven is here. Blessed be they who men: for they schulen weiden the earth. Blessed be they that moornen: for they schulen be comforted."

merci. Blessid ben they that ben of clene herte; for they schulen so god. Blessid be goddis children. Blessid ben they that suffer persecucion for rightynesse; for the kyngdom of heuensis is here, y schulen be blessid whanne men schulen curse you."

The following is the Lord's prayer: "Our father that art in heuensis halowid be thi name, thi kyngdom come to, be thi willle don in earthe as in heuene, gene t. us this day oure bread ouir other substance, and forgene to us oure deltes, as we forgene to oure detours, and lede us not into temptacion; but deliuer us from yuel amen."

Perhaps no part of Wyclif's translation is more striking than his rendering of the thirteenth chapter of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. It reads thus:

"If I speke with tungis of men and of anngels, and I haue not charite, I am made as bras sounyng or a cymbal tynkyng, and if I haue profecy, and knowe alle mysteris, and at kynnyng, and if I haue feith so that I moute hillys frothe: pace and I haue not charite, I am nought, and if I departe alle my goodis in to myris of pore men, and if I make my body so that I brenne, and I haue not charite it profitith to me no thing, charite is pacient, is benyng."

charite ennyeth not, it doth not wikkidli it is not blowin it is not couctous, it seekith not the thingis that ben his owne, it is not stired to wrothbe, it thinkith not yuel, it ioieth not on wickednesse, but iooth to girde to trithe, it sufferith alle thingis: it belueth alle thingis, it hopith alle thingis, it susteyneth alle thingis, charite fallith neuer down, whether profecies schulen be voided, either languagis schulen cease: ether science schal be distried.

for aparti we knowen and aparti we prouen, but whanne that schal come that is perfict, that thing that is aparti schal be auoided, whanne I was a litil child I spok as a litil child, I vnderstood as a litil child, but whanne I was made a man I voided the thingis that weren of a litil child," etc.

Surely no one can intelligently read such renderings without receiving impressions from the truth. Would it not be well for all who can, to read God's word in several languages? Coverdale well said: "Since I am that there cometh more knowlege and vnderstandyng of the Scripture by theyr sondre traslacyons, then by all the glosses of our sophistical doctours. For that one interpreteth sonthyng obscurely in one place, the same translateth another (or else he himselfe) more manifestly by a more playn vocabole of the same meanyng in another place."

Search the Scriptures.

What God Blesses.

God blesses very slender things to the conversion of souls. It is very humbling to a preacher who thinks, "Well I did preach a very good sermon that time," to find that God does not care a pin about him or his sermon, and that a stray remark that he made in the street which he hardly thought was of any value whatever, was that God had blessed; that when he thought he had succeeded best he had done nothing, and when he thought he had succeeded worst, then God blessed him.

In 1333 of the Gospel.

It is demonstrable that the success of the Gospel in the last one hundred years is greater than the success it has achieved in any preceding hundred years; we may even say in any preceding two hundred and fifty years.

Hints for Cheap Floral Decoration.

A very pretty adornment for picture frames is German ivy, a common trailing vine which grows with great luxuriance. All the old medicinal plants which infest out-of-the-way closets may be utilized for this purpose. These should be filled with water and hung behind the pictures, and a slip of the ivy inserted. The vine is quite hardy. We have seen a single slip, in a pint bottle, grow until it ran along the entire length of a moderate-sized room.

About as pretty a vine as can be selected for window dressing may be obtained from the ordinary sweet potato. The bulb need only be set in a hyacinth glass and it will soon send out shoots. Hyacinths look very pretty on a window sill; but in raising them in glass, it should be remembered to keep them in the dark until the roots are two inches long, and also to change the water frequently, never allowing the new supply to be colder than that removed.

A Horse and His Little Friend.

On a small farm in France was a young horse, whose temper was so untractable that all attempts at taming him failed. The farmer would have parted with him but for his youngest child, a boy about six years old; to whom, strange to say, the animal showed a great liking.

We All Have Faults.

He who boasts of being perfect is perfect in folly. I have been a good deal up and down in world, and I never did see either a perfect horse or a perfect man, and I never shall till two Sundays come together. You cannot get white flour out of a coal-sack, nor perfection out of human nature; he who looks for it had better look for sugar in the sea.

The claims of four candidates for the honors of sainthood have, according to a Roman paper, been brought before the Pope by Roman Catholics members of four nationalities.

Missionary Items.

From Chi-fu Mr. Eckard, of the American Presbyterian North China Mission, writes: "The interest in the Chi-ni region (in Shantung) is unabated and almost unparalleled. The inquirers there are numbered by the hundred. We have determined to organize a church there at once."

Roubaix has long been the most barren field in India, and a small measure of success there is more notable than a greater success elsewhere. The Parsees, for instance, have for long years seemed wholly inaccessible. Many years ago two or three of them were converted, but since then they have seemed as unimpressible as granite.

The Jewish Mission of the English Presbyterian Church has its field of labour in London exclusively, where there are more Jews than in all Palestine. Several baptisms have recently taken place through the work of Mr. Meyer, the missionary; and so pleased and grateful has the church been on this account, that it has appointed a colleague in the person of the Rev. Julius Friedburg, an Israelite of German nationality, who has already done service in similar work elsewhere.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in New York has now formally assumed the missions in Chili formally under the American and Foreign Christian Union. The Rev. Messrs. Sayre in Talca, Merwin in Valparaiso, Christen in Corpio, and Ibanez in Santiago, are now enrolled under the auspices of the churches which the Board represents.

Egypt has become a most interesting field for Christian missions. The present missionary force in that country consists largely of ministers from the United Presbyterian church of the United States, and of persons from this country and Great Britain, who simply act as teachers, and represent different churches. The missions are located as follows:—In the great city of Cairo; in Mansoura, in Lower Egypt; containing 104 villages and 143,000 inhabitants; Osmont, in Upper Egypt, a province of 234 villages and 404,000 inhabitants; and Kassouh-the-Nile, 480 miles above Cairo, and 24 below Thebes. A number of native converts have been added to the churches the past year. The schools are exceedingly prosperous, numbering about 880 scholars.

Precious Stones of the New Jerusalem.

In the New Testament the most remarkable passage in which precious stones are mentioned is that in the Apocalypse describing the New Jerusalem. "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper," as we are told, "and the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones." The precious stones were twelve in number, and they were arranged in order as below, where each has its color placed opposite to it.

Table with 2 columns: Stone Name and Color. Jasper, Dark opaque green. Sapphire (lapis lazuli), Opaque blue. Chalcedony, Greenish blue. Emerald, Bright transparent green. Carbuncle, White and red. Garnet, Bright red. Crystal, Bright, glass. Ruby, Blood green. Topaz (or Peridot), Yellowish green. Chrysolite, Darker shade of same. Hyacinth Sapphire, Dark shade of azure. Amethyst, Violet.

Professor Dormer on America.

Professor Dormer has been addressing his Berlin brethren on the subject of American Christianity, and disabasing their minds of the supposition that our great religious divisions were in array against each other, and in default of a State Church, without common ground of recognition or unity.

I have, however, felt it to be a duty to correct many current errors about the United States, and to point out some traits which we ought to copy; e.g., sympathy of all Protestants, amity, mutual esteem, disregard for differences which do not concern the soul; in the place of peevish, narrow, uncharitable and enmity. The present age demands new and greater tasks. Finally may the free, open recognition of what is good in other sects, and the readiness for work and sacrifice for God's kingdom—the characteristics of American Christians—be our model.

The London Medical Record says that the police of Melbourne have received instructions through the Police Gazette, that for the future any persons found before a police bench charged with inebriety, said inebriety having been caused by excessive drinking of intoxicating liquors, are to be sent to prison and treated as criminal lunatics, and not, as hitherto, forwarded to a benevolent or other asylum to be treated as afflicted lunatics.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Jenkins, the author of "Ginx' Baby," is almost ready with his story of West Indian life, Lucknow and Dills.

£5,000 have been promised for the library of Durham towards his expenses in any proceedings he may take against the Quakers.

The Earl of Mulgrave has just issued orders in the Church of England, and will henceforth devote himself to preaching the gospel.

Mr. Spurgeon's health is said to have again broken down, and it is expected that he will spend a few weeks in the Alps.

Several Scotch Presbyterians have devoted much of their time at recent meetings to the subject of intemperance, and discussing the best means of dealing with it.

In spite of his double work as Premier and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gladstone has found time to study the opinions of Mr. Darwin's theory of evolution.

The late Mr. Thomas B. ... one year's salary to all clerks and ... in the employment of Baring Brothers, the gross sum to be paid amounting to ... of £90,000.

According to a London letter, Archbishop Manning is at present the most prominent figure in the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Europe, and every day adds to his influence and his influence.

The Pensioner of Nice says that General Canibaldi's health is improving, but that he has to keep himself, for the most part, in a recumbent posture, and to use crutches when walking.

A short word it was, but expressive, that Mr. Frondo threw at the ... er's head when he asked ... how he pronounced his name, "Like a ... in fool, sir!"

Another clergyman of the ... of England, the Rev. J. R. ... the Roman Catholics. A good ... congregation goes with him.

"Why can't some mission be ... on thoroughly (Roman) Catholic principles to that wandering people the Jews ... the correspondent of a Ritualist ... paper. The answer might easily ... for there is no religion so abhorred by the Jews as Roman Catholicism."

The following advertisement ... recently in a London daily:—"The ... —A country priest will say mass once a week for the benefit of any one who will regularly send him the Times newspaper, second-hand, on the day of publication."

Things have come to such a pass in the English Episcopal Church that the minister who withstands Ritualistic tendencies procures for himself the odious title of "Protestant heretic." This title was applied recently by a curate at Leeds, to even his "Right Reverend Father in God," the Bishop of Ripon!

The New Testament Company of Revisers assembled, on Tuesday, in the Jerusalem Chamber, for their Thirty-fifth Session. The company completed the first and provisional revision of the last chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and then proceeded with the revision of the Epistle of St. James.

The Burmese.

In the general ability of the men to read and write, in the social position of the women, in the absence of any law of primogeniture, and consequent general diffusion of landed property, and in their temperate habits, the Burmese are incontestably in advance of all European nations. The women do most of the trading, superintend farms, advise in law cases. The wife keeps the money, and her husband goes to her when he needs any. Married women can acquire and hold property in their own names. Such a notice as the following is not a solitary instance: "Twenty persons, including women, have formed themselves into a mercantile firm, and have obtained a monopoly for the sale in the Bhamo district of salt for the 24 months."

According to the Burmah books, a good wife "knows when her husband is hungry, and that he may eat, puts before him the best food in the kindest way; and dresses him becomingly, seeing that his clothes are not old or dirty; and keeps him in mind of his work and his duty. As friends consult each other, regarding their mutual profit and happiness, and assist each other, she, having consulted her husband, lends her assistance and looks on; and behaves to her husband's relations as to her own, and does not dispute his authority; and if he goes to the chief's house or other place, she waits for his return, and eats not her meal till she eats it in company with him."

The men are generally able to read and write, and many of them know also the principles of arithmetic. In one place, with a population a little less than 10,000, the government inspector of schools ascertained last spring that 60 per cent. of the boys were attending school, and but 3.3 per cent. of the girls.

Even now the Burmese may be ranked as the most temperate people in the world, and yet, since English civilization came among them, they have very much degenerated from their former principles of strict abstinence, and of speedy punishment by flogging for such a breach of decorum and decency as drunkenness is. Owing in part to their temperate habits, and in part to their being no law of primogeniture, there are very few beggars in Burmah. In British Burmah the average size of landed estates is estimated at fifteen acres. The people are intelligent, quick of apprehension, and quick of application; courteous, tolerant, and well governed; and constitute a fine field for missionary labors, which is now in the hands of our Baptist brethren.—Missionary Herald.