The Nativity.

DT BODATION DONAIL

Novae res, nova lez, Nova natalitia ; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia; Novenabilitia;

Night of wonder, night of glory, Night all colerest and serone, Michael old promette story Such as time has never seen; Amoutest darkness, sufast blur, That these fair skies over knew

Might of beauty, night of graduess Night of nights-of nights the best. Not a cloud to speak of sadness, Not a star but sings of rost; Holy midulahi, beataing peace, Never shall thy radicues cease.

Happy city, dearest, fairest, Blested, blessed Bothlehem! Lenet, set greatest, noblest, rerest, Judah's over sparkling gom : Out of thee there comes the light That dispelleth all our night.

Now thy King to theo descendeth. Borne upon a woman's knee; To thy gates his steps He boudeth, To the tanger cometh He: David's Lord and David's Son, Then his cradle and his throne

He, the lowliest of the lowly, To cur sinful world has come! He, the holicst of the hely, Cannot A .d a human home. All for us he yonder lies, An for us ho lives and dies.

Babe of weakness, child of glory, At they cradle thus we bow; Peer and sad the earthly story, Yot the King of Glory theu : By all licaven and earth adored, David's Son and David's Lord.

Light of life, then liest youder, Shining in thy beavenly love Nought from the our souls shall sunder, Nought from us shall theo remove. Take these hearts and let them be Throno and cradle both to thee!

Wiclif's Translations of the Bible.

BY REV. WILLIAM S. PLUMER, D.D.

The history of our p-esent translation of the Scriptures is closely connected with other translations that preceded it. Of these, it seems to be now generally conceded that Wielit's was the first that contained all the word of God, though parts of Scrip-ture had been given to the English reading people by several persons. The Psalms in particular were often done into English.

How seriously and carnestly Wielif de-sired the free use of God's word by the people is manifest by his colobrated prayer at Lutterwotth: "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?" No doubt he often and earnestly offered such prayers in secret. Every trace of this re-markable man is full of interest. His nemo s given to us in no less than five forms, Wycliffe, Wyclif, Wickliff, Wielef, and Wi-

John Wichf was born in Yorkshire, near Richmond, in 1824. He hved to be sixty years old. He was in his day an eminent scholar of Oxford. At the age of thirty-six he began to assail the corrupt system of monasticism then provalent. He held various appointments until at the age of forty-eight he began to lecture on divinity with great applause. Soon after he began to expose the errors and corruptions of Rome. Very consistently he at the same time became an open friend of religious liberty. Such conduct brought on lum malignant persecution; but God protected him. His blood was not shed in martyrdoin, though the Pope so far prevailed as cause him to be banished from Oxford in 1882, two years before his death, which ne-curred at Lutterworth, in December, 1884. How corduity he was hated by the I apal party may be judged from the tone of an epitaph offered by a mon's, who styled hum. "The devil's instrument, Church's enemy, people's confusion, heretic's adol, hypocrate's minor actions to be a produced by the first to the fi mirror, schism's broacher, hatred sower. But all this was harmless. The voice of calumny reached him not in his grave. When he had been resting in his grave for thirty-one years, the hyena spirit in the Council of Constance passed an order that Wyelif's bones should be exhunted and burned. Thirteen years lat r the decree was executed by the Bishop of Lincoln, at the command of the fierce Pope Martin V. But all this hurt him not. It would have done less harm to Romanism if the Pope had canonized him.

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. Wycl.f's translations were much sought after. It is quite above other works of the same author. There is still extant a considerable number of copies of his version, published within fifty years of his death. This is the more remarkable as the measures adopted for its ntter extinction were very stringent. our day, one is surprised to find at what high races Wyclit's Bible was sold. often brought as much as was paid to a respeciable clergyman for a year's services.

It was well to bring out in modern times n good edition of Wielif's translation by itrelf, as well as to insert it in the Hexapia. Perhaps no scholar or pious man can read a chapter in Wyelif without being refresh-The antique form of many sentences at once awakens attention. The chief faults are such as are found in the Latin from which it is taken, and a too close adherence to the idious of other languages, especially the Latin.

That the reader may have a little taste of this honey from the rock, two or three specimens are here inserted. Here are the Beautitudes:

"Blessid be pere men in spin , for the kyngdom of beares is hern. Bleesid be myldo men: for thei schulen weeld the myldo men; for their sentien areas for last the Liounan Empire there were not of error their schulen be comfortate. Diessid ben 1000,000 of a minut Christians out of error their schulen be comfortate. Diessid ben 20,000,000; while too the winde world, the 20,000,000; while too the winde world, the ness: for their contents as a fact. on moreity men : her that relink a gety

merci. Blessid ben they that ben of clene herta: for thei schulen so god. Blessid be pesiblo men; for the schulen be eloppid goddischildren. Blessid ben thei that sutfron persecuctionn for righwisnesse; for the kyngdom of houchis is hern, ye schulen be blessid whanno men schulen ourso you,'

The following the Lord's prayer:

"Oure fadri that art in heunes halowid he thi name, thi kyngeome come to, he thi wille don in earthe as in honorar, your to us this day oure breed our other substannee, and forgene to neonre dettis, as we forgenen to ome dettouris, and lede us not into temptacionn: but delyner us from 3 nel amen.

Perhaps no part of Wyelif's translation is more striking than his tendering of the thirteenth chapter of Poul's First Epistle the Corinthians. It reads thus:

"If I speke with tungis of men and of aungeis, and I have not charite. I am made as bras sownynge or a cymbal tinklynge, and if I have profecie, and knowe alle mysteries, and al kynnynge, and if I have a feith so that I meno hills frohe: 1 ace and I have not charite, I am nought, and if I departe alle my godis in to metis of pore men, and if I bitake my bodi so that I brenne, and I have not charite it profetith to me no thing, charite is pacient, is beny

charite ennyeth not, it doth not wiskidli it is not blown it is not concitous, it sekith not the thingis that ben his owne, it is not stired to wrothlie, it thinkith not yuel, it ioi th not on wickednesso, but iooth to girde to truthe, it sufferith alle thingis: it belueth alle thingis, it hopith alle thingis, it susteyneth alle thingis, charite fallith neuer down, whother profecies schulen be voided, either languagis schulen cosse other science schul be distried.

for aparti we knowen and aparti we prouen, but whanno that schal come that is perfict, that thing that is apparti schal be avoided, whanne I was a littl child I spoke as a litil child, I undirstood as a litil child, but whanne I was made a man I voided the things 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: "Sure I am that there commeth more knowlege and vandarsteadings of the Smith trends of the Smith Smith said: and vanderstondings of the Scripture by theyr sondrie translacyons, then by all the glosses of our sophistical doctonis. For that one interpreteth southynge obscurely in one place, the same translateth another (or else he himselfe) more manifestly by a more play no vocable of the same meanying 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 whateve, 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. Many a soul has his eyes opened by an instrumentality which never dreamed of being so useful; and, indeed, the whole way of salvation is in itself actionally simple and actionally simple. in itself extremely simple, so as to be com-Saviour used. I do not find many souls converted by bodies of divinity. We have received a great many into the church, but never received one who became converted by a profound theological discussion. by a protound theological discussion. We very seldom hear of any great number of conversions under very cloquent preachers -vory soldom indeed. We appreciate eliminence, and have not a word against it by itself, but evidently it has no Lower spiratually to enlighten the under tanding, within does it please God to use the excellency of words for conversion. When Paul Lad aside human wisdom and said he would not u e the excellency of speech, he of ly laid aside what would not sling and the stone, and slew the giant; and giants are not conquered to day any more than they were then by champions arrayed in Saul's armor. We mut to the sample things, to the plain We must keep plainly prenched .- Syurgeon.

#### fu coss 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. We look back fondly on the first ages, and sigh for the gift of tongues and for Pontecostal blessing, and yet in the last century more has been done to give the libio to the world than was done in the first ten centuries of our era. Twenty versions at most were made in the first one thousand years; in the last one hundred years a handred and twenty have been made—in languages spoken by more than half the globe. There are more con versions from heathenism, in proportion to the number of preachers, than there are at home. It costs more per man to make a Uhristian in London than it costs in heatherdom. Even whon Constantine proclaimed population of the entire globe. Nomunal Christians now form one fifth. Each gen-eration of the modern world consists of 80,-Nommal 000,000 of children, and they have to be Christianized individually one by one. Of Christianized individually one by one. Of these 80,000,000, 6,000,000 (one-fifth) become nominally Christians, and a considerams proportion of them really Christians. Bassi I Bounnal Claristinas to ro only about 50 1,000

one of every 8 40 mains.

Hints for Cheap Ploral Decoration.

A very preity adormnent for picture frames is German ivy, a common trailing vine which grows with great luxurlance. All the old medicine phials which infest out-of-the-way closests may be utilized for this purpose. These should be filled with water and hung behind the pictures, and a stin of the toriometric fill. slip of the ity inserted. The vmo 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 recen. We recently need a way to raise onk-trees in a hyacinth glasses, it being merely necessary to suspend the acorn inside and a little above the water. A sponge moistened and with fine seed scattered in its pores, soon becomes a mass of living verdure, though a prettier ornament, we think, can be made of a large pine burr, similarly prepared and hung, like the acorn, over water Fine grass seed is the best to use. Wardian cases are very easily made. A shallow box lined with zine, with some holes on the sides to ventilate the soil, and a large glass shade, easily obtained for a small sum, answer the purpose. The plants take care of tomselves the water which they evaporate condensing on the glass and running back to the spil, so the ta species of circulation is constantly maintained. Insect fancers can combine animal and vegetable life very nicely in one of these cases, as quite an as sortment of bugs may be kept alive in them even through the winter. Of course such varieties should be selected as will not feed on the plants.

Mont as pretty a vi io as can be selected for window dressing may be obtained from the ordinary sweet potato. The bulb need 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 included laws and also to change the matter. inches long, and also to change the water frequently, never allowing the new supply to be colder than that removed. Dried leaves and vines also make tasteful orna-ments if they are properly prepared. Doubtless many have gathered fall leaves, and are waiting for a convenient rainy Sat-urday to arrange them. To such we may remark, that the best plan is, not to use varnish, because the leaves tims treated soon lose their color. Way is preferable, and is easily laid on with a warm sadiron. Group the leaves in bouquets with plenty of form, fasten them at the back to a piece of cardboard, and tack them against the wall. German ivy, dried in sprays, looks nicely in places where the plant will not grow in the hottle or where the hving vine is not desired Seientific American.

#### A Horse and His Little Friend.

On a small farm in France was a young lierse, whose temper was so unwactable that all attempts at taming him failed. 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. He would come to his young friend and receive fond from his hand. He seemed pleased to have his shaggy took patted by the little fellow. One day, all the abult members of the family were out in the fi-blackcepting the mother, who, being engaged in the house, left the who, being engaged in the non-e, left the child playing in the yard; when he fell into a pend, and would have drowned but for the timely aid of his friend, the horse. The animal happened to be loose in the stable, and hearing the familiar voice, came out at and teating the laminum voice, came out at a trot, and, seeing the child strugging in the water, seized him by his garment, and drew him out the very moment his mother camo to lo k after him.

# 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 bundays come together. You cannot get winte flour out of a coalsack, nor perfection out of human nature; have been of much service to him. When he who looks for it had better look for David put off Saul's armour he took the sugar in the sea. The old saying is, "Life les , faultless; of dead men we should say nothing but good, but as for the living, they are all tarred more or less with the black brush, and halt an eye can see it. France head has a soft place in it, and every heart has its black drop. Every rose has its prickles, and every day its night. Even the sun shows spots, and the skies are dark ened with clouds. Abbudy is so wise, but he has folly enough to stock a stall at Vanity fair. Where I could not see the fool's cap, I have nevertheless heard the bells jurgle. As there is no sunshine with ont some readows, so is all human good mixed up with more or less of exil; even poor-law guardians have their little failings, and parish seadles are not wholly of hea venly nature. The best wine has its lees. All mens faults are not written on their forcheads, and its quite as well they are not, or hats would need very wide brims; yet as sure as eggs are eggs, faults of some sort nestle in every man's besom. There's no teling when a man's sins may show themselves, for hares pop out of the ditch just when you are not looking for them. A horse that is weak in the legs may not stamble for a pule or two, but it is in him, and the rider had better hold from up well. The tabby cat is not lapping milk just now, Christianity as the religion of the Roman | but leave the dairy door open, and we will Empire, the nominal Christians of the Em- | see it she is not as but a three as the kitton. pire were fewer than one-fifteenth of the Thore's fire in the fluit, cool as it looks a population; and when the Christians were want till the sizel gots a knock at it, and most numerous in those ages they never you will see. Everybody can read the exceeded over one hundredth part of the riddle, but it is not everybody that will reriddle, but it is not everybody that will remember to keep his guapowder out of the way of the candle. John Plonghman, by Spurgeon.

> The clauns of four candidates for the ionours of saintship have, according to a honors of sathfath have, according to a Roman paper, be an brought before the Pope by Between Cath die members of four nation-alities. The English propose the Veneralla Benetit; the Perioh, the Maid of Orleans; tim Italians, Christopher Columbus: and the Oreat.

Missionary Ytems.

From Chi-fu Mr. Eckard, of the American Prosbytorian North China Mission, write; "The interest in the Chi-mi region (m Shantung) is unabated and almost unpavolleled. The inquirers there are numbered by the hundred. We have determined to organize a church there at

Bombay has long been the most barren field in India, and a small measure of succoss 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 scomed as unimpressible as granite. Mr. Taylor and his brethren bave preached to them, as to others, and seven of them have been baptized, while as many more contemplate taking the same step.

The Jewish Mission of the English Presbyterian Church has its field of labour in condon exclusively, where there are more ows than in all Palestine. Several haptisms have recently taken place through the work of Mr. Meyer, the mis-ionary; and so picased 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 Gorman nation-ality, who has already done service in similar work olsewhere.

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. Savre in Talea. Merwin in Valparaiso, Christen in Corpiao, and Ibanez in Santiago, are now enrolled under the anspices of the churches which the Board represents. Dr. Trumbull has been invited to retain the relation he has held hitherto, to the retiring society.

Egypt has become a most inferesting field for Christian missions. The present missionary torce 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 Alexandria, with its 288,000 inhabitants: Alexandria, with the zoogone influences, Mansonra, in Lower Egypt: containing 104 villages and 143,000 inhabitants: Osiont, in Jpper Egypt, a province of 234 villages and 404,000 inhabitants; and Koogon-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 des-erding the New Jerusalem. "And the cribing 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 gorn shed 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.

Jasper. Dark opaquo green. Supphire dapis tazuli) Opoquo bino Chalcedony, Graenish blue. Lorenth, Bright transparent green Sar lonyx, Whate and red Bright red. Sarlius, Chrosille, Bright Jellow. Blubsh groon Rorst. Topaz (or Periolof) Yellowish green. Darker sinde of same. Chrysoprasus, Hyleinthus Sapphires Dark shade of azuro. Amothest, Violet Diculafail's "Diamon's an I Precious Stones."

# Professor Dormer on America.

Professor Dormer has been addressing his Berlin brothren 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 amity. Contrary to all this, the vonerable scholar, fresh from his visit among us, declared that the common Gospel is so correctly distinguished from details, in which it is hopeless to expect union, that even foes of the Church can learn what is substantial, what makes a Christain, and dare not say as here, than the theologians do not agree in their definition of a Christian." He even concludes ins remarks by holding us up as an example to all Germany. He closed by saying:

I have, however, felt it to be a duty to orrect, 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 estcom, disregard for differences which do not concern the soul; in the place of peevish, narrow, um asy strife 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 -bo our model. If we much hand in hand with America for these onds, the start which our history gives us in many respects will he preserved as a blessing for us, and for the Evangelical Church of the entire globe. -N. Y. Evangelist.

The London Medical Record says that the police of Melbourne have received in-structions through the Police Gazette, that for the future any persons known it before a police bench, charged with imsuity, said insarity having been caused by excessive describing of interiorities. drinking of intoxicating liquors, are to be sont to prison and treated as criminal lung-tics, and rot, as hitherto, forwarded to a benevolent or dther asylum to be treated affiloted lunation.

### Miscellancous.

Mr. Jonkins, the author of "Ginx" Baby, is almost ready with his story or West Indian life, Luchmee and Dille.

25,000 have been promised to the History of Durham towards his expenses in say proceedings he may take against the Rival J

The Earl of Mulgrave has instantial orders in the Church of England War wilk honceforth devote himself to presching the gospel.

Mr. Spurgeon's health is raid to have again broken down, and it is expected the he will spend a few weeks photograp

Soveral Scotch Presbytorian largaero ed much of their time at recent partings to the subject of intemperance, and the desiring the best means of dealing with He and make a radiment

In spite of his double work as the micro and Chancellor of the Exchequer, fill clad stone has found time to study birth discupon Mr. Darwin's theory of evolutions are The late Mr. Thomas Ballagoffone

year's salary to all elerks and and areas in the employment of Baring Bigister the ross rum to be paid amounting to appeared of £30,000. According to a London letter Archital lalion Manning is at present the most provident figure in the Roman Catholicus of

Europe, and every day adds to his anyimnee and his influence. 125 Jugar The Pensiero of Nice saysathatitheneval Garibaldi's health is improving but that he has to keep himself, for the most turn in a recumbent posture, and to use cratches

when walking. A short word it was but dyposaive that Mr. Froude throw at 2Edinor THE Property er's head when he asherial of history tow he pronounced his names, "Like londer in fool, sir!"

Christ hoing? Another clergyman of the little of England, the Rev. J. R. Mattay has joined the Roman Catholics. A good part of the congregation goes with him.

ថមដ "Why can't some mission be organism" on thoroughly (Bonnan) Catholic processes to that wandering people the Jews, the correspondent of a Ritualization paper. The answer might easily to there is no religion so abhormatikantha. Jews as Roman Catholicism. fillere be

The following advertisement recently in a London daily:—"The lines.—"A country priest will say may once a week for the benefit of any ond wife regularly send him the Times newspher, second-hand on the day of unblication." 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 Leads, to even his "Right Reverend Father in God," the Bishop of R pon!

The New Testament Company of Revisers assemble 1, on Tuesday, in the Jerusalem Chamber, for their Thirty-fifth Session. The company completed the first and provisonal 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 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 Burness are incontestably in advance of all European mations. The in advance of all European nations. The women do most of the trading, superintend farms, advise in law cases. The wife keeps 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 moreantile firm, and have obtained a monapoly for the sale in the Blume district monopoly for the sale in the Blinmo district of salt for the Shin Sa'es." Women can sue and be sted; can obtain legal divorces on the incompatibility of disposition; yet the stats relating to marriage, slower, and divorce, in all the court of British Burmali for 1869-70 were only 1178, in a population

of two and a half millions. According to the Burmah books, a good According to the Burman books, a good wife "knows when her husband is hungry, and, that he may cat, 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 him week and his data. As friends consulted hot out or circy; and keeps min in mon or 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 herown, and doss not dispute his authority; and if he goes to the chief's house or other place, she waits till his return, and cats 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 piace, with a population a little less than 10,000, the government inspector of schools ascortained last spring that 68 ti per cent. of the boys were attending school, and but 8.8 per start of the side. cent. of the girls.

Even you the Business 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 orated from men to timer principles of street abstituence, and of speedy punishment by flogging for such a breach of decorum and decency as drankonness 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 Eurmah the average size of landed states is estumnted at lifteen acros. The people or intelligent, quick of apprehension, and quick of application; conteous, tolerant, and well governed; and constitute a fine field for missions, y labors, which is now in the hands of our Baptist brothron.—Missions of Market Baptist brothron. sionary Herald.