The Weekly Observer.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1849.

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The Observer.

Published on TUESDAY, by DONALD A. CAMERON, at his Office, corner of Prince William and Church Streets, over the Store of Messrs. Jardine & Co.—TERMS: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Company is prepared to receive applications for Insurance against FIRE upon Buildings and other Property, at the Office of the subscriber. I. WOODWARD.

St. John, Nov. 11, 1846. *Secretary.*

New and Cheap
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

JUST RECEIVED—A well selected Stock of PAPERS, in Foolscap, blue and yellow, Fine and Superfine POTS, large and small POSTS, ditto NOTE, with ENVELOPES to match; CAP and POST, Ruled; Blotting, Tissue, Cartridge, Music, Crayon Drawing, Wall, Wrapping, and other PAPERS.

BIBLES, Testaments; Prayer, School, and Miscellaneous BOOKS.

Steel Pens, Quills, Inks and Ink Powders, Slates and Pencils, Lead Pencils, Sealing Wax and Wafers, India Ink, Indian Rubber, Red Tape, &c.

LEDGERS, Journals, Day Books, Cash Books Pass, Memorandum, and other Blank Books.

COPY LINES and BOOKS, ruled and plain.

Bills of Lading; ditto Exchange.

☞ *Book-Binding carefully attended to.*

A. FRASER.

DOCK STREET, *Saint John,* 13th June, 1848.

BRASS'S HOTEL, WINDSOR, N. S.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the travelling public, that he has taken the premises known as BRASS'S HOTEL, in Windsor; and trusts that by strict attention to business, he may receive a share of the public patronage. His larder and hall will be well supplied with such as the season and place can afford—his bar with the best wines and liquors—and he will endeavour at all times to give travellers such satisfaction as may be required.

JAMES GILDRED,

Sept. 26.—3¶ *Windsor, N. S.*

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having this day assigned unto his Son, ROBERT NISBET, all his Stock of Furniture, Materials and Tools, &c. &c., the Cabinet Making and Upholstery Business heretofore conducted in the name of THOMAS NISBET & SON, will in future be carried on by the said ROBERT NISBET, on his own account, upon the same premises.

All the outstanding debts due to and owing by the late firm of THOMAS NISBET & SON, will be collected and settled by the Subscriber.

THOMAS NISBET.

Saint John, N. B. 1st Sept. 1848.

☞ NOTICE.

HAVING occasion to be absent from the City for a short period, I have, by Letter of Attorney, fully empowered Mr. GEORGE F. THOMPSON, of this City, Painter, to adjust claims, make payments, and transact my business during my absence; and any arrangements made with Mr. THOMPSON, on my account, will be equally effectual as if made with myself.

JOHN J. HOGAN.

November 27th, 1848.—[Cour.]

NOTICE.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing between the Subscribers, under the Firm of THOMAS BARLOW & COMPANY, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All Debts due to and by the late Firm, will be received and paid by THOMAS BARLOW, and all persons indebted to the late Firm, or having unsettled Accounts with them, will please call at their office at an early period and adjust the same.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING,
JOHN STEWART.

St. John, January 1st, 1848.

THE Subscribers tender their grateful acknowledgments for the patronage received by the late Firm, and beg to intimate to their friends and the public generally, that the Business will be continued in all its branches, at the PHŒNIX FOUNDRY, where they solicit a continuance of the patronage hitherto enjoyed.

☞ Any orders for *Castings, Machinery, Mill-Work, Engines, &c.,* will be promptly attended to.

THOS. BARLOW,
GEORGE FLEMING.

January 1st, 1848.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of JOHN ROSS, late of this City, (formerly of Grand Manan,) deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested; and all persons indebted to said Estate, are required to make immediate payment to JOHN M. ROBINSON, Esq. Barrister at Law, who is hereby authorised to receive the same.

MARY PADDOCK, *Executrix.*

St. John, Oct. 31st, 1848.

ALL persons having any legal demands against the Estate of VALENTINE C. TROOP, late of this City, Grocer, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within six months from the date hereof;—and all persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to REBECCA TROOP,

Sole Executrix.

Saint John, June 24th, 1848.

Stoves! Stoves!! Stoves!!!

Just received per 'Widow,' from New York:

A LOT of fancy Air-Tight Parlor STOVES, for burning coal.—Also, a lot of Diamond Empire Cooking STOVES, Charcoal Furnaces, Water Urns, Hollow Ware, &c. &c.—For Sale low by JOHN S. WESTLOTORN,

Sept. 12. *King's Square*

Boston-made Stocks.

SELF-adjusting SATIN STOCKS;
Long-end ditto ditto;
French Bombazine STOCKS, with bows,
Do. Plain Satin and Bombazine ditto,
Do. Plaited with Silk Velvet ditto,
Do. Fancy imitation Handkerchiefs do.

The above are superior to the English make in fit, durability, and appearance.

GARRETT & SKILLEN.

Pantechnetheca, Dec. 12.

PALE SEAL OIL.

LANDING ex "Charles" from Halifax:—20 Casks PALE SEAL OIL,—for Sale by

October 24 JARDINE & CO

FLUID
Extract of Valerian,

For Head Ache, Nervous and Hysteric Affections.

☞ READ THE FOLLOWING.

From Parker Cleaveland, LL.D., Professor of Chemistry, Materia Medica, Mineralogy, Geology and Natural Philosophy, Brunswick College, Maine.

Brunswick, Aug. 9, 1848.

Messrs. EDW. BRINLEY & Co.

I HAVE not till the present time found leisure to devote any attention to the "Fluid Extract of Valerian," a bottle of which you were kind enough to send me a few weeks since. I have now sufficiently tested it, to satisfy me, that it contains the active medicinal principle of Valerian, in a *purer*, more simple and concentrated state, than *any other* preparation of this root, with which I am acquainted. From the great success which has attended its use, I think the public may rely upon it as a very *valuable* medicine in all Nervous Affections, Headache, Sleeplessness, &c. Permit me to add that it is important that the manufacturer should *continue* to prepare the Extract with the same care as heretofore. With much respect, yours, &c. P. C. CLEAVLAND, M. D.

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL,
Worcester, Mass., August 7, 1848.

DAVID PARKER, *Shaker Village, N. H.*

Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 5th, has been received, and I hasten to reply. We have used only one bottle of your "Pure Fluid Extract of Valerian." In one case of a mild form of Delirium Tremens in which we used it, the agitation and trembling were calmed by one hundred drop dose of it.

I hope to be able to say something in favor of the Valerian before long; it is an elegant preparation.

Yours very truly,
GEO. CHANDLER, M. D.

We hereby certify that we are acquainted with the method of making the Pure Fluid Preparation of Valerian, as put up by the United Society of Shakers, at Enfield. It possesses the properties of the Valerian highly concentrated, and may be used in all cases where the medicine is proper, and all may rely on its being genuine. It is the kind we use and recommend.

DIXI CROSBY, M. D., *Dartmouth College, N. H.*
ED. E. PHELPS, M. D.
JOHN CLOUGH, M. D., *Enfield, N. H.*
BENJAMIN GALLUP, M. D., *Lebanon, N. H.*
M. M. DAVIS, M. D., *Norwich, Vt.*
ALBIGENCE PIERCE, M. D., *Strafford, Vt.*
B. N. STILES, N. D., do. do.

March 17, 1843.

The above invaluable Preparation is signally efficacious in all Nervous and Hysteric Affections, Sleeplessness, and Sick Headache, producing quiet and tranquil sleep, and leaving no unpleasant sensations after its use,—the inevitable result of Opiates, Camphor, and the many articles usually administered.

☞ S. L. TILLEY, King-Street, Sole Agent for St. John, N. B. February 13, 1849.

1st January, 1849.

H. G. KINNEAR

Has on hand at this date—

51 HHDS. Bright Porto Rico SUGAR;
6 puncheons Scotch TREACLE, in Bond;
50 chests Fine and Congo TEA,
40 boxes Souchong ditto,
20 boxes Pale Yellow Domestic SOAP,
156 do. Steele's Liverpool ditto,
75 do. Boston No. 1 ditto,
50 do. Honey Dew Aromatic and common Tobacco,
25 do. Mould CANDLES,
20 do. Dipt ditto,
15 barrels Cider VINEGAR,
50 do. Watson's NAVY BREAD,
50 do. No. 1 and 2 PILOT ditto,
260 packages Sugar, Soda, and Water BISCUIT,
50 boxes Domestic ditto,
20 bags best Washed FILBERTS,
10 barrels (new) Hickory NUTS,
5 do. Sea Elephant OIL,
200 dozen (Domestic) CORN BROOMS,
1 caroteel and 15 brls. best Zante CURRANTS,
10 quintals Dry COD FISH,
75 casks Deck and Rose SPIKES,
117 do. 3½ 6 8 10 12 14 16 20 24 and 30d'y Wrought Board NAILS,
25 do. 6 8 10 12 and 14d'y Clasp Wrought NAILS,
23 do. 5d'y to 20d'y English Cut ditto,
49 do. 4 5 6 7 8 9 and 10d'y Ox and Horse ditto,
5 do. Derby Ox Nails,
52 do. 2½ to 3½ inch Sheathing Nails,
56 do. 1 5-16 to 3½ inch Boat do.
4 pieces CHAIN CABLE, 5-8 to 3-4 inch,
1 ANCHOR, 3 cwt.; 5 dozen *Gorlin* Scythes,
40 casks small Chains, 1-4, 5-16, 3-8, 7-16, and 1-2 in.
150 STOVES, Cooking, Close, Box, Hot Air, and other descriptions and sizes,
3 cases STATIONERY,
15 boxes No. 1 Hunt's best Am. AXES, warranted,
320 boxes 7x9, 8x10, 9x12, 10x12, 10 and 12 by 14, 14x15, 12x16; 17 and 18, 13, 14 and 16x20; 16, 17 and 18x24 best English Sheet WINDOW GLASS,
10 boxes Tobacco PIPES,
50 Weaver's Reeds, 20 Wash Stands,
20 dozen American large Painted PAILS,
50 sides Upper LEATHER,
250 Wood, Flag and Cane-seat CHAIRS,
85 do. do. do. Rocking ditto,
15 Arm and Office ditto,
59 Looking GLASSES, (assorted sizes,)
15 cases containing 500 gross block and card Matches,
5 cases containing 300 pairs Ladies' Patent Manufactured RUBBER Over-Shoes; 6 cases containing 700 pairs best Para common Gum RUBBERS,
15 bolts best Scotch Navy CANVAS, No. 1 to 6,
5 bags Black PEPPER; 10 bags Sale-Petre,
25 kegs and boxes Ground GINGER,
25 boxes No. 1 Halifax Chocolate,
20 barrels Fresh Ground OATMEAL,
20 firkins best Cumberland BUTTER,
5 barrels Pot Barley, 10 do. White Beans,
1 ton London Picked OAKUM,
25 boxes Ground Pepper,
250 dozen tins Mason's Patent BLACKING,
25 Platform Deadlows, Union, Counter-top, Druggists and Post-Office BALANCES and SCALES,
10 boxes London STARCH, 25 do. 2 oz. and 1 lb. papers Black Lead, 20 kegs Fig Blue, 2 bundles Tapioca, 10 tins India Rubber Blacking, 1 cask and 2 barrels Epsom Salts, 150 bladders PUTTY, Mill saw Files, Borax, Hox Pumps, Coffee Mills, Tailors' Geese, Copper Basins, Waffle Irons, Ash Doors and Osburne Furnaces, Camp Pails, Wooden Bowls, Deep sea Lines, black, blue, and white-row cotton THREAD, Dark, White, Whitings, Bath Brick, Pumice, Cloves, Cassia, Nutmegs, Ground Redwood, Ground COFFEE, Paste Cocoa, pipestem and thumb Liquorice, Gum Camphor, Pungent Salts, Polishing Powders, tin Mustard, sweeping BRUSHES, &c. &c.

Fall and Winter Goods!

Received per "Themis," from Liverpool—

PLAIN and Figured ORLEANS, Satin Striped and Check'd ditto, Black and Coloured COBOURGS; Grey, White, and Printed Cotton Furnitures; Linens, Lawns, Hollands, Ticks, Moleskins, BLANKETS, FLANNELS, Serges, Rugs, Muslins, Silesias, and Rolled Jaconets, Gimps, Fringes, Tailors' Trimmings, Small Wares, Cotton Warp, &c. &c.

Per *Kent* from London—

SILKS, SATINS, Fancy Bonnet RIBBONS, Black and col'd Silk Velvets, Flowers, Hkfs., LACES, GLOVES, HOSIERY, MUFFS, BOAS, CAPES, CUFFS, &c. Broad Cloths, Buckskins, Doeskins, Kerseymeres, PILOT and BEAVER CLOTHS, FUR CAPS, Gent's Silk, Paris & Beaver HATS, Which are offered low for Cash.

J. & H. FOTHERBY.

Market Square, Oct. 17, 1848.

STOVES, &c.

Received this day per Brigt. "Jane Allison," from New York—

A LOT of Ornamented Hall and Parlor STOVES; Cooking ditto, various sizes; Bed-room Franklins; Hollow Ware, &c.

JOHN S. WESTLOTORN,

Nov. 21. *King's Square.*

The Garland.

THE WOODMAN'S SONG.

The air is chill—over valley and hill
The fleecy snow lies spread;
From shore to shore is each stream frozen o'er,
And all the flowers are dead.

Our axe is keen—and right soon shall be seen
The work which it hath done,
Our arm is strong—and we throw it along,
Full sure each blow counts one.

Beneath our strokes quickly fall the huge oaks—
The woods will soon look bare;
They've had their day, and right soon must they,
The fate of all things share.

So death at length will our Manhood's proud strength
Lay low as we the oaks;
None are secure, his shafts are sure—
All fall beneath his strokes.

THE HISTORY OF THE COMPILATION OF THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE, &c.

Lectures delivered in the Mechanics' Institute, Saint John, N. B., on the 2d and 9th February, 1849.

BY P. LESPERR, ESQ.

[*Continued.*]

The MSS. from which all the editions of the Books of Scripture which have been noticed were made, belonged according to the best evidence to the three first centuries; and it is remarkable that the 3rd century was distinguished by the learned and critical labours of men of extraordinary talent and deep piety. We thus have the guarantee of their ability on the one hand, and of their strong religious principle on the other, for the confidence we are called upon to repose in their testimony. Origen, Pamphilius, and Eusebius of Cesarea, lived at this time. The fame of Origen has come down to us; when he was 17 years old his father suffered martyrdom, and he himself would have gladly shared the fate of his pious parent. He was a most voluminous writer, and his Hexapla is supposed to have made 50 volumes. He is also valued for his defence of Christianity against Celsus. He is supposed to have possessed the original or autograph of Ezra. He transcribed the Hebrew in one column and the Greek of the Septuagint in another column opposite, marking the differences. His work was called Hexapla, from his having employed in the collation the six principal Greek versions then in existence. Some fragments excepted, this great work has long been irrecoverably lost. A very ancient Greek MS. was brought to England by two Greek bishops, who stated that tradition reported it to be *Origen's own Book.* It is now in the British Museum, and is supposed to be the oldest MS. in the world. This manuscript contained 165 folios or leaves, and 250 most curious paintings, 21 of which were engraved by the Society of Antiquarians in London. I cannot refrain appending a brief testimony to the character of Origen, given by Mosheim; "A man" says he "of vast and uncommon abilities, and the greatest luminary of the Christian world that this age exhibited to view. Had the justness of his judgment been equal to the immensity of his genius, the fervour of his piety, his indefatigable patience, his extensive erudition, and his other eminent and superior talents, encomiums must have fallen short of his merit. Yet such as he was, his virtues and labours deserve the admiration of all ages; and his name will be transmitted with honor through the annals of time, as long as learning and genius shall be esteemed among men." He died A. D. 254, at Tyre, after having suffered much for the testimony of Christ.

In the year 303, a most bloody persecution of the Christians was commenced by Diocletian, the Roman Emperor. He ordered all the Bibles to be burned, and inflicted grievous penalties upon all who refused to sacrifice to the heathen Deities; in Egypt alone, 144,000 died violent deaths, and 700,000 through the hardships of their bondage. So cruel and unsparing were the edicts against the Christians, that in some parts of the country no vestige of the Christian religion was left. Yet the word of God was not lost, many a precious life was cheerfully laid down in preference to giving up the Holy Volume. One peculiar feature also distinguished the Christians of those days; they made it their solemn duty to commit to memory as much of the Scriptures as they could, and extraordinary instances of their success are recorded; so that even when they were robbed of the written treasure, holy men were found who had stored the whole contents of the sacred volume in their memory, and who were always ready to communicate their knowledge with as much precision as if the Book had been unrolled before them.

Galerius, the successor of Diocletian, would fain have followed his inhuman predecessor in harrassing and decimating the Christian Church, but Providence interposed and raised up a friend in the person of Constantine, whom the Roman Senate declared first Augustus, or Chief Emperor, in the year 313. No right-minded Christian will attempt to defend the acts of Constantine, when he forgot the mild and peaceful nature of the religion he professed to have embraced, and resorted to some of those infamous means which, alas, have been but too frequently used under the name of godly zeal for the propagation of Christianity. It is said that many unfortunate Jews found it convenient to profess the new religion, but they were suspected of dissimulation, so to test their sincerity swine's flesh was boiled, cut into mouthfuls and placed at the door of every church; all that entered were obliged to eat a piece. Those who remained away at heart refused compliance, and being thus detected were immediately put to death. A much wiser method however was adopted for disseminating a knowledge of the truth. He sent an order to Eusebius to have 50 copies of the Bible transcribed, that every Church might be supplied with one. This munificent order, for so it was in that day, (when a copy of the Scriptures involved a large amount of labour and expense,) was immediately attended to and completed; and in the words of Eusebius, the Bibles were "sent him in volumes magnificently adorned." He further instituted a diligent search for any of the sacred Books which had been deemed to destruction, caused transcripts to be made of such as had escaped, added others to them, and at his death left in the imperial library 6,900 volumes of various kinds.

During this (the 4th) century, great efforts were made to extend the knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures. The Council of Nice, A. D. 325, ordained, "That no Christian should be without the Scriptures."—The Council of Laodicea, A. D. 367, enjoined "That the Gospels, with the other Scriptures, ought to be read on the Sabbath day." From the writings of Chrysostom, we learn that the Scriptures were very generally dispersed among the people. It was also common, especially for women and children, to have the Gospels hung round their necks, and to carry them about with them. The rich preserved magnificent copies of the Sacred writings, executed in the most beautiful characters, on the finest vellum. During this century, Ulphilas, Bishop of the Goths, made a translation of the whole, or a considerable part of the Scriptures into the Gothic. The remains of this translation are found in the University of Upsal, in Sweden, and bear the name of the *Codex Argenteus*, or Silver Book. This manuscript is splendidly illustrated in gold and silver letters. It has been several times printed with a glossary and observations.

The Ethiopic version is also supposed to have been made in this century. Chrysostom, who lived at the close of that period says, "the Syrians, the Egyptians, the Indians, the Persians, the *Ethiopians*, and other nations, have translated the Gospel in their own languages." Mr. Bruce, the celebrated Abyssinian traveller, says, "The Abyssinians have the Scriptures entire as we have, and reckon the same number of Books, but on account of their extreme poverty, few, if any of them, possess complete copies of the Old Testament; and the same may be said of the New Testament, for copies containing the whole of it are very scarce, indeed nowhere excepting in the Churches do you see more than the Gospels, or the Acts of the Apostles, in one person's possession, and it must not be an ordinary man that possesses even these. Mr. Bruce, on his return from Abyssinia, in 1773, brought a number of Ethiopic MSS., among which were the following:

1. The Old Testament, in 5 large quarto volumes, containing all the Books in our Canon, excepting the Psalms. The Psalms are common in Abyssinia, but by some accident he had no copy of them.
2. Two copies of the Gospels, in 4 vols.
3. The Acts of the Apostles and all the Epistles in our Canon, with the Revelation of St. John, uniform with the copies of the Gospels.
4. A copy of the Song of Solomon, in Amharic, the Falashan, the Agow, the Cheretz Agow, and the Galla languages, along with a vocabulary of these languages.

Since the invention of printing detached portions of the Scriptures in Ethiopic have been printed in several places. The New Testament was printed in Ethiopic at Rome in 1548, under the direction of three native Ethiopians. The edition was afterwards reprinted in the London Polyglott, with a Latin translation by Dudley Loftus. It has also been reprinted since at Brunswick, with a more accurate Latin translation by Professor Bode. At Leyden in 1654 the Epistles of St. James, St. John and Jude were reprinted with an Arabic translation by Theodore Petralus. The ancient Ethiopic version is generally believed to have been made by Frumentius, who first preached Christianity in Ethiopia in the 4th century.

The most eminent and learned christian of the 4th century was Jerome, whose version of the scriptures has already been noticed, and still continues to be known as the *Vulgate.* Of all men who ever engaged in the important business of translating the scriptures, and fixing the sense conformably to the meaning of the original, perhaps Jerome was best qualified for the work. His qualifications, and the advantages he possessed, are thus described by a late critic: "his learning, whether sacred or profane, was not less extensive than Origen's; his judgment and taste were more correct and exquisite. He had a perfect knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and was sufficiently versed in the Hebrew. He had correct copies of the Hexapla, if not of the autograph itself before him. He was at no great distance from the famous school of Jewish rabbins (Tiberias). He had traversed the Holy Land, and indeed the greater part of the then known world, with his own feet, and had seen with his own eyes the principal places mentioned in the sacred history. He was acquainted with the manners and customs of the country; he knew its plants, its animals and other productions. With all these advantages, and his superior talents, it was impossible that he should not succeed." And when it is further considered, that he was a man of excellent character; that he was induced to undertake this great work by the wish to silence the Jews from their own scriptures; and that he spent fifteen years on the work of translating from the original Hebrew MSS., and collating with the Greek translations, we have every reason to repose great confidence in his labours. Such however was the jealousy of these early Christians for the purity of their scriptures, that the version of Jerome did not receive the sanction of the Church until two hundred years after. The most unlimited faith was exercised with respect to the Septuagint, and new translations from the Hebrew original, were regarded as dangerous innovations. Indeed it was very generally believed in those early ages, that the seventy-two elders employed in producing the first Greek translation, or as it is called, the Septuagint accomplished that work under the immediate inspiration of the Divine Spirit; hence the unwillingness to take up with other versions. In process of time however, it received the sanction of Papal authority, and in the 16th century the Vulgate was declared authentic by the Council of Trent. The genuine version of Jerome, from a beautiful manuscript at Paris, was published in 1693, and forms the 1st vol. of the Benedictine edition of his works, in 5 vols. folio.

The translation of the Scriptures into the Armenian tongue was executed early in the 5th century. This excellent version is attributed by some to Chrysostom, but upon very doubtful evidence. It is ascribed with more probability to Mesrobe, secretary of State to the Armenian Kings. This version has continued in use among the Armenians ever since. In the 17th century, the manuscript copies of the Scriptures had become exceedingly scarce in Armenia. A council of Armenian Bishops assembled in 1662, and resolved to avail themselves of the art of printing, of which they had heard, but which till then was unknown in Armenia. After surmounting many difficulties the Armenian translation was printed at Amsterdam in 1666, in 4to., and an edition of the New Testament in 1668, in 8vo. A second edition of the Bible was printed at Constantinople in 1705, and a third at Venice in 1733, which latter is esteemed the most correct. But notwithstanding these editions, the Scriptures had become so scarce in Armenia by the close of the 18th century, that they were scarcely to be had at any price. To supply the want an edition of 5000 copies of the New Testament was printed at St. Petersburg in 1813. The Armenians are reputed to be generally a wealthy, industrious and enterprising people. They are to be found in every principal city of Asia, and wherever they settle they build Churches and establish the ordinances of religion, to which they give a careful and decorous attention. It appears evident that in addition to the translations already noticed there existed others in the 5th century of which we have no fragments at this day. Theodorus, a Syrian Bishop, however, says that the Scriptures had been translated in the language of the Grecians, the Romans, the Indians, Persians, Armenians, Scythians, Sarmatians, and Egyptians. It is certain that great attention was during this century paid to sacred literature. During this age the Empress Eudoxia distinguished herself as a Biblical scholar. She wrote a paraphrase of the first eight books of the Bible in verse, and afterwards another paraphrase in prose of the prophecies of Daniel and Zachariah. She also wrote the lives of Cyprian and Justina, and other religious books. It was at this time that pictures were introduced into the Churches, which from their design were called "the books of the ignorant." Superstitious as these and many other similar devices may be accounted they nevertheless evince the reverence which was then felt for the sacred histories. In this age the practice of illuminating the sacred books prevailed most extensively. The manuscripts were sometimes written on parchment of a purple colour, in letters of gold and silver, and some of the most magnificent copies were all written in the uncial or capital letter. In the imperial library at Vienna is a MS. of this kind, 1400 years old, written in gold and silver letters, and containing 48 pictures in water colours. Among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum is found a noble specimen of *chysography.* It is a copy of the four Gospels in capital letters of gold, written in the 8th century. Every page is surrounded with a beautifully illuminated border; the pictures of the Evangelists, with their symbolical animals, are curiously painted in the front of their respective Gospels. The initial letter to each Gospel is richly illuminated, and fills a whole page. Many such manuscripts are yet in existence, and if time permitted, a more detailed account of them might not be uninteresting. Some idea may be formed of the splendour and value of these works when it is considered that a single manuscript was sometimes the labour of a whole life. At the sale of Sir Wm. Burrell's books in 1796, a superb MS. edition of the Bible on vellum, elaborately illuminated, was disposed of, which had occupied the writer Guido de Jars fifty years to execute. He began it in his 40th year and finished it after he had attained his 90th year, as appears from his own autograph at the front of the book.

It may not be considered irrelevant to state that St. Patrick flourished at this time. This apostolic man was by birth a Scotchman. He was born near Dumbarton, and of highly respectable parents. At 16 years of age he was kidnapped with many of his father's vassals, and carried to Ireland. He soon learned the language and customs of the country. After enduring many tribulations (having again been a second time taken captive and carried to Gaul,) he resolved to devote himself to the work of converting the Irish from the worship of idols, in which he proved eminently successful, and through his instrumentality Christianity was very generally embraced throughout the Island. It is conjectured that about this time a translation of the Scriptures was made into the ancient Irish tongue—a supposition which derives probability from the fact that old MSS. are still extant in that language containing the lives of the Patriarchs and Moses.

Early in the 6th century, Polycarp, at the request of Philoxenus, Bishop of Hierapolis, translated the Greek Testament into the Syriac. In the 12th century it was revised and a new edition or rather version published, and in 1778 the four Gospels copied from these versions, were published at Oxford, by Dr. White. The Old Testament was also translated from the Greek into the Syriac about the same time by Mar-Abba, who was Primate of the East between the years 535 and 552. Another version of the Old Testament was subsequently made from the Greek into the Syriac by Paulus, Bishop of Tela, but there scarcely remains a fragment of these two versions. Another Syriac version of the New Testament, and two other versions of the Gospels by unknown authors, have been discovered and described. At the end of this century the Scriptures were translated into the Georgian language. In the beginning of the 18th century the greater part of the Bible was printed in Georgia, and in 1743 the whole Georgian Bible was printed at Moscow; and in 1815 an edition of 5000 Georgian New Testaments was printed by the Moscow Auxiliary Bible Society. In this century it was that the famous Pope Gregory 1st sent to Britain the Monk Augustine, with forty companions, to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons Christianity had indeed been planted in Britain at a very early period, some suppose by the Apostles themselves; but such had been the influence of Pagan conquests, that prior to the mission of Augustine, heathenism had again overspread the land. The mission was partially, and only partially, successful, for in order to win over the idolaters a sort of compromise was made with them, by which the ordinances of the Christian were in a great degree assimilated to the ceremonies of their heathen worship. The Venerable Bede, who was born 672, assures us that in the same temple two altars might be found, one for the sacrifices of idolatory, and one for the services of the Christian religion.

Towards the latter end of this century an awful gloom began to overspread the world. This was introduced by a manifest and growing disrelish of spiritual religion; and by the substitution of stupid ceremonies and unmeaning observances. Execrable and puerile legends took the place of the sublime and simple scripture narratives. The materials for writing upon seem to have become about this time exceedingly scarce. To supply the lack, and to furnish food for the growing appetite for marvellous stories the writers of those days made no scruple at all of defacing the most valuable manuscripts. Sometimes this was done by erasing; sometimes they boiled them; at other times they discharged the ink by the use of quick lime, or by other chemical processes; and not unfrequently they merely defaced the original writing with a sponge. By this barbarous operation science and religion were equally outraged, for these obliterations were not confined to the sacred records; many classical works of high reputation, were thus sacrificed to gain or superstition.

The seventh century introduced an order of things which has been appropriately termed *Dark.* This period was the beginning of the *dark ages.* The illiterate barbarism which recklessly marred and destroyed records of priceless value, to make way for legendary marvels, was a fitting prelude to the profound and universal ignorance which followed. Mosheim in his ecclesiastical history remarks, "nothing can equal the ignorance and darkness that reigned in this century; the most impartial and accurate account of which will appear incredible to those who are unacquainted with the productions of this barbarous period." It appears however that England, which but a very short time antecedent had received the Gospel, did not altogether lapse into the obscurity which was gathering over the continent. About the year 680, a Latin copy of the four Gospels was written in exquisitely beautiful Roman characters by Egbert, a Monk of Holy Island. It was also illuminated with elaborate workmanship and ornamented with gold bosses and precious stones, at the expense of Ethelwold, Bishop of Landisfarne. Aldred, a priest, interlined it with a Saxon version, which is said to be the finest specimen of Saxon writing extant.

I cannot pass on without noticeing a most extraordinary donation, which was made in this century by Ina, king of the West Saxons, to the Church of Glastonbury; for while it proves that in these early times England was already possessed of the precious metals in considerable amounts, it affords a proof of the veneration then entertained for the Holy Gospels,—and perhaps some may be inclined to add, of the progress which superstition had already made. This Prince caused a model of a chapel to be formed of silver and gold, with ornaments and vases of the same metals, delivering 2640 lbs. of silver for the chapel; for the altar he gave 264 lbs. of gold; for the chalice and paten 10 lbs. of gold; for the censer 28 mancusses of gold; for the candlesticks 124 lbs. silver; for the coverings of the Books of the Gospels, 20 lbs. and 60 mancusses of gold; for water vessels and other vases for the altar, 17 lbs. of gold; for the basons for the offertory 8 lbs. of gold; for the vessels for the holy water, 20 lbs of silver; for images of our Lord and Virgin Mary and twelve Apostles, 175 lbs. of silver and 38 lbs. of gold, the Apostles to be of silver, but our Lord and the Virgin Mary in gold; the pall for the altar and the vestments for the priests were also artfully interwoven on both sides with gold and precious stones. It does not seem that much was done during this century to increase the amount of Scripture knowledge in the world; on the contrary, it appears but too true that a retrograde movement was fast hastening on the reign of ignorance and error.

Early in the eighth century the Scriptures were translated in Arabic. The conquests of the Saracens had rendered this language common in Spain, and John, Archbishop of Seville, being desirous that the people should read and understand the word of God, undertook a translation, which he completed A.D. 717. Between this period and the eleventh century, other translations were made, but no authentic account of them has come down to us. A translation of the Gospel according to St. John, into Anglo Saxon, was made about this time by the Venerable Bede. Several other eminent men, (chiefly Englishmen) also flourished at this time. A revision of the Vulgate was undertaken at the request of Charlemagne, the copies in general use having suffered at the hands of transcribers., Flaccus Albinus, one of these distinguished Englishmen, was appointed to this formidable task, and discharged the duty with extraordinary zeal and ability. But unfortunately the labours of these and other learned and pious men were insufficient to dispel the thick darkness which had overspread the Western world, and which had extended to all ranks, producing laxity of morals and barbarism of manners.

The 9th century produced some able commentators on the sacred Scriptures. Rabanus Maurus, a monk of the Abbey of Fulda, at the request of the emperor Louis, surnamed the Meek, compiled commentaries on most of the sacred books, collected principally from the Fathers, in regular series, from Jerome to Bede. The deficiencies in the expositions of the fathers he supplied with his own comments. An important Biblical work was written by Otfrid, another learned and pious Monk. It is generally known as the Harmony of Otfrid. It was composed in verse.

Another German Monk, named Walafrid Strabus, or Strabo, composed a Latin comment on the Bible, which for many centuries was held in great esteem.

Phocious, Patriarch of Constantinople, who lived about the year 870, produced a commentary on the Prophets, and another Book on the Psalms, both of which are yet extant in MS. The propriety of explaining and illustrating the Sacred Scriptures by comments has been very generally allowed. At first a word or sentence in the margin was supplied, explaining some word in the text. These explanations were afterwards mingled with the text, but with such marks as served to distinguish them from it. The practice of incorporating the gloss or comment with the text, has been the cause of the *various readings* afforded by ancient MSS., for through the inattention of copyists, the marks by which the gloss should have been distinguished from the text, was often left out, and by succeeding transcribers being considered as a part of the text, was entered accordingly. A line drawn under the comment or gloss, was generally the distinguishing mark; the omission of this line would produce the mischief. Both the Septuagint and the Vulgate abound with supplementary or explanatory words, thus incorporated with the text, and to these well meant but mistaken glosses, may be attributed many of the controversies respecting the true meaning of Scripture.

Some missionary efforts were also made in the 5th century. Two Greek Monks, Methodius and Cyril, brothers and natives of Thessalonica, carried the Gospel to the northern tribes of Europe. They also translated the Scriptures into the Sclavonian tongue. This was a most important work, for this language was the parent of many of the northern dialects. Thirteen tribes or nations are supposed to have benefited by this version. A MS copy of the New Testament in this language is in the library of the Earl Spencer. The first Book printed in the Slavonian was the Pentateuch, in 4to. The translation was made by Methodius and Cyril from the Greek of the Septuagint. The whole Bible was printed from this translation at Ostrog in 1581, and at Moscow in 1664.

In 871, ALFRED, justly surnamed the Great, *ascended the British throne.* A more illustrious Sovereign never wielded a sceptre. To him Englishmen are indebted for some of their noblest Institutions, among which, the *Trial by Jury*, stands prominent. His memory ought ever to be associated with the magnanimous sentiment expressed in his will "*It is just that the English should for ever remain free as their own thoughts.*" A sentiment so much the more admirable from having been evoked by a king,—Princes, from the general voice of history having been rather prone to circumscribe the liberty of the subject. Alfred sedulously encouraged, both by precept and example, a reverence for the ordinances of religion and the Word of God. In addition to several other works which he wrote in the vernacular, he was engaged in a translation of the Psalms, which he did not live to finish. This beginning appears to have formed part of a design to render into Anglo-Saxon the whole of the Old and New Testaments. Indeed it is affirmed, but upon questionably authority, that he accomplished his design. Alfred was the subject of a most acutely painful disease, from the agony of which he scarcely ever experienced any mitigation. Yet though racked with continual pain, he withstood the fiercest hostilities that ever distressed a nation, cultivated literature, discharged his public duties in the most exemplary manner, and executed all his schemes for the improvement of his people. Truly he was a nursing Father, and a king that did "reign in righteousness." Let us not forget however, that he was favoured with a good Mother,—or rather, and which is so much the more commendable—a good step-mother. This closes the account of the 9th century, from which we cannot but perceive that while a little, *and but a little*, was done at the outskirts, the suburbs, if we may so speak of the Christian world, to advance the interests of religion, and promulgate a knowledge of the scriptures, the central region, the heart of the Christian Church, was almost pulseless, a fact prognostic of the subsequent disease which afflicted the whole fabric.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT,

Thursday, 1st February, 1849.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The period being arrived at which the business of Parliament is usually resumed, I have called you together for the discharge of your important duties.

It is satisfactory to me to be enabled to state that both in the North and in the South of Europe the contending parties have consented to a suspension of arms for the purpose of negotiating terms of peace.

The hostilities carried on in the island of Sicily were attended with circumstances so revolting that the British and French admirals were impelled, by motives of humanity, to interpose and stop the further effusion of blood.

I have availed myself of the interval thus obtained to propose, in conjunction with France, to the King of Naples, an arrangement calculated to produce a permanent settlement of affairs in Sicily.

The negotiation on these matters is still pending. It has been my anxious endeavour, in offering my good offices to the various contending powers, to prevent the extension of a calamitous war, and to lay the foundations of lasting and honourable peace.

It is my constant desire to maintain with all Foreign States the most friendly relations.

As soon as the interests of the public service will permit, I shall direct the papers connected with these transactions to be laid before you.

A rebellion of a formidable character has broken out in the Punjaub, and the Governor-General of India has been compelled, for the preservation of the country, to assemble a considerable force,