

end of the Gospel, to show her love and reverence for the Bible, and to inspire us, Dearly Beloved Brethren, with similar sentiments of affectionate veneration. It is not true that she concealed it from the people before the Reformation. It is not true that Luther was the first to publish the Bible in the vulgar tongue. But it is a fact, as well authenticated as any in history, a fact of which there are now existing indubitable proofs, that in all the principal countries of Europe there were many such versions of the Bible before the time of Luther. His German Bible appeared about the year 1530; but there was a German version of the Bible published in 1466, that is, sixty-four years previously, and of this version no less than seventeen editions were published before Luther's Bible (A). It is a fact, and the celebrated Protestant historian, Hallam, admits, and proves it, (Hist. of Lit. 196) that one of the first books published after the discovery of printing, was a Latin Bible. Now this first printed book is supposed, with the greatest probability, to have appeared about the year 1455, and thus it is clear that in Luther's own country, a very early advantage was taken of the new discovery to publish the Bible in German in 1466, so utterly untrue is it that only for Luther the people of Germany would have been deprived of the Bible in their own language, they having had it before he was born. How many thousands of persons amongst us are ignorant of these things! How many are persuaded that but for the Reformation, the Catholic Church would have locked up in a dead language the Bible, which for fourteen