

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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POETRY.

From the Church of England Magazine.

LINES

WRITTEN ON A BLANK LEAF OF A BIBLE.

O, never on this holy book
With careless, cold indifference look;
'Tis God's own word; and they who read
With prayerful hearts and reverent heed,
Shall gain from each unfolded page
A blessing for their heritage.

If thou art sad, come here and find
A balm to soothe and cheer thy mind;
If thou art merry, here are songs
Meet to be sung by angels' tongues—
Meet to be sung by sinful men,
For whom the Lamb of God was slain!
If thou art rich in things of earth,
Learn here thy wealth is nothing worth;
If thou art poor, this precious mine
Hath countless treasures—they are thine!
Dost thou lack wisdom? look herein,
And surely thou shalt wisdom win—
Wisdom to guide thee on the road
Which leads, through faith in Christ, to God.

British and Foreign Bible Society.

GERMANY.

The Rev. Dr. Steinkopff, having visited the Continent during the last year, was empowered to make in the name of the Society, various grants where he might see occasion. He has furnished your Committee with an interesting statement relative to his journey; from which the following extracts will be read with pleasure:—

"My longest stay was at Stuttgart, the capital of the kingdom of Wurtemberg; where, ever since 1812, an active and most useful Society has pursued its labours, and brought into circulation upwards of 350,000 German Bibles and Testaments, not only in every part of the kingdom, but also in various parts of Germany and France. I attended several of its committee meetings; and felt truly gratified by being permitted to second a proposition, made by its Depository, to print an edition of the Gospel of St. Luke for the benefit of the blind; and also to encourage a plan proposed by a committee member, who is chaplain of the garrison at Stuttgart, to furnish every company of soldiers with a certain number of New Testaments. The anniversary of the Wurtemberg Biblical Institution was held on Friday the 21st of October, in the Cathedral. Four prelates of the protestant church, and almost the entire body of the parochial clergy of the Capital together with a numerous audience, attended it. An excellent sermon was preached; the Report was next read; a public distribution of 300 Bibles and Testaments was made to 300 boys and girls connected with the various schools; and, in conclusion, I was privileged to deliver an address, presenting a concise account of the latest operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was received most kindly. The first chaplain to the court was present. The King has been invariably kind to the institution; he annually supports it by a donation of 500 florins. I cannot sufficiently thank God for the many and distinguished blessings which it still pleases a God of infinite mercy to confer on my dear native land (Wurtemberg). The word of God is preached in purity, and, in many instances, with talent and unction, in the protestant churches of Stuttgart. For several Sundays I went both morning and afternoon, to the parish church of St. Leonhard, and heard most excellent sermons. The large church was crowded; hundreds were obliged to stand. Near 500 communicants presented themselves at the Lord's Table. I also attended the confirmation of a number of young people at the Cathedral; the service was most solemn. Many tears were shed, not only by the young people, but also by the adults. In the afternoon of the same day I preached at the Cathedral; and addressed the young people, who had been confirmed in the morning. On Wednesday, the 3d of October, I enjoyed the high satisfaction of attending a meeting of 130 pious and devoted Protestant Clergymen, chiefly parish

ministers, assembled at Stuttgart from different parts of the kingdom, for the purpose of conferring with each other on important points connected with their ministerial work and office, and of encouraging and strengthening one another in their most holy faith.

"I was also favoured with an interview, first with the King, and afterwards with the Queen of Wurtemberg. Both received me most graciously, and conversed with me for a considerable time. I presented His Majesty with a copy of the Bible in the Tahitian; with the New Testament in the Mantchou; and with the Prophet Isaiah in the Esquimaux language. The King expressed himself much gratified; and proposed several questions relative to the state of religion in the South-Sea Islands and in the vast Chinese Empire; and to the attempts made by different Christians of different nations and denominations to evangelize those far distant regions. He afterwards testified, in a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of State, the satisfaction which the presentation of these and other copies of the Sacred Scriptures, on the part of the British and Foreign Bible Society, had afforded him; and was pleased to honour me with a golden medal, as a token of his approbation of my exertions for the dissemination of the word of life and salvation. Soon afterwards, I was presented to the Queen, who understands and reads English, and who entered with much interest into the labours of the various benevolent and christian institutions, both in Great Britain and on the Continent. She accepted, with much pleasure, a copy of the small pocket Testament in the Italian language, lately printed by our Society. She lamented so many having been led away by a spirit of infidelity and insubordination; but observed, she had always found those men most conscientiously devoted to their God, and most faithfully attached to their earthly rulers, who were the most diligent and attentive readers, hearers, and doers of the word of God.

"In the progress of my journey through some parts of Switzerland, I had also repeated opportunities of observing that the Biblical and Missionary cause had many warm friends and supporters in the Protestant cantons of that interesting country, particularly in the cities of Schaffhausen, Zurich, and Basle; and, amidst the multiplied and strenuous efforts made by the champions of infidelity to undermine the very foundations of Christianity, there is still remaining a mighty phalanx of friends to the Bible, and to the God of the Bible, who are more determined than ever to counteract those unhallowed designs, and with unshaken firmness, and undeviating integrity, to adhere to those great and fundamental truths so plainly and distinctly contained in the inspired volume, and handed down to us, as a sacred deposit, by Apostles, Martyrs, and Reformers, who did not count even their lives dear unto themselves, so that they might finish their course with joy, and the ministry which they had received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God."

SLESWICK HOLSTEIN.

The Sleswick-Holstein Bible Society, according to its last Report, issued 3,187 copies during the year, making its total issues 80,488. The following account of the late venerable prince, the Landgrave of Hesse, the President, is too interesting to be omitted,—he was upwards of 90 years of age.

"The usual intimation of His Majesty's gracious acceptance of the Sleswick-Holstein Bible Society's Report (being the Twentieth) was communicated by our illustrious President, the Landgrave of Hesse, to the Committee, in a letter given at the royal residence in Copenhagen, and signed by the King himself, under date of April 30, 1836. It was the last time that his Serene Highness enjoyed this pleasure; for on the 17th of August the venerable prince was called away from his earthly labours; and on the 30th of the same month his remains were deposited in the family vault in the Cathedral of Sleswick, on the day of his marriage with his august consort exactly seventy years before.

The age of the late venerable prince had greatly exceeded the general period allotted to man; and his end was peaceful and free from pain. His whole life was marked by the most indefatigable exertion for the benefit of mankind, and of science; but the favourite object of his labours was to promote the extension of the kingdom of God on earth. He confessed the name of Jesus both privately and publicly; and never was he ashamed to own that he acknowledged Him as his Redeemer and Saviour; neither did he flinch from his testimony in behalf of the Gospel even though he was attacked, and frequently misrepresented, by his infidel contemporaries. Thus he

considered it as one of the happiest moments of his life, when, in early youth, he had an opportunity, at the court of Frederick the Great, to declare, before a brilliant assembly, that he knew no higher happiness on earth than to be an humble believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. The King of Prussia was silenced by the animated testimony of the young prince, then attached to his service; and it is remarkable, that, after a life devoted to the Gospel, he was called away to see Him face to face, on whom his soul believed, on the very day on which that monarch preceded him in death fifty years before. To the latest period of his existence, he considered it his highest privilege to labour for the glory of the Redeemer; and whenever opportunities occurred, he was not remiss in seeking to engage the co-operation of his high and influential friends. He was found, in his last moments, seated at his writing table, with his eyes half closed, and broken in death, apparently gazing on a painting of the Saviour, which adorned his study.

"What he did and what he projected for the country, is matter of record for history; the remembrance of his zeal, in promoting the dissemination of the word of God, and the interests of the Sleswick-Holstein Bible Society, will ever be affectionately cherished in the hearts of all who had the privilege of being united with him in the same holy work."

GREECE.

Your Committee have been rejoiced to receive from the Rev. H. D. Leeves, the following gratifying account of the issues of the Scriptures from the Depot at Athens during the year 1838.

"In that period our work has gone on prosperously, and I have the satisfaction of reporting an increased amount of issues over the year 1837, when the number of copies was under 15,000. On the present occasion, they almost reach 18,000; of which, 16,142 volumes were in the Greek language, and with few exceptions, have been circulated in the kingdom of Greece. In looking over the accounts of our Depot, I find that during this interval, our books have found their way from Athens, to the islands of Mycono, Thermania, Milo, Siphno, Amorgo, and Andros; and on the main land to Corinth, Zeitouni, Talanda, Thebes, Chalcis, Livadia, Missolonghi, Nauplia, Coron, and other places; and, in some instances, have been supplied through the means of the authorities, or of respectable individuals residing in the several places who have been friendly to our christian object. Our Agent, also, Soterios Berios, was engaged from August to December in a tour through various parts of the Peloponnesus, wherein he visited Nauplia, Tripolizza, New Sparta, (a town lately founded on the site of Ancient Sparta, and designed for the capital of the province) Marathonisi, Tziniova and other places in the wild region of Maina, (or Laconia,) Calamata, Navarino, Modon, Cyprisca, Arcadia, Pyrgo, and Calavrita, returning by Corinth and Megara, to Athens. During this tour, he put into circulation 4334 volumes of the Greek Scriptures printed by our Society; besides 800 New Testaments of the edition printed in America, which were placed in his hands by the American Missionaries, and distributed by him among the Mainiotes. He had to encounter a good deal of opposition direct and indirect, for our adversaries have been busy every where, and are so still increasingly; but he seems to have met it all steadily, and it pleased God in many places to give him good success, and to keep him and bring him back to Athens in good health, in which point, on former occasions, he has several times suffered.

"The Agent of the American Bible Society, Mr. Calhoun, has this last year purchased of us 4824 copies of the Greek Scriptures, which have been distributed by Mr. King, Mr. Houston, and other American Missionaries in Greece. Mr. Calhoun has lately paid us a visit, and is now gone on to Egypt and Syria. I have supplied the school of Mr. Hill, the American Episcopal Missionary at Athens, during the year with 465 copies, and from no books, I may say, which we disperse, may we promise ourselves more certain and pleasing spiritual fruit than from these. This school continues to flourish, as does also that of the Church Missionary Society at Syra, under the direction of Mr. Hildner, to whom I have had the pleasure of supplying during the year 650 copies, of the use and profit to be expected from which, I may say the same as I have asserted respecting the schools at Athens."

WALLACHIA.

There have been forwarded to the depot at Smyrna only small supplies, though the distribution of former