

in one volume, about 400 years before the birth of our Lord, ending with the Prophet Malachi.

About a century later, these Hebrew books were all translated into Greek at Alexandria, probably for the benefit of the multitude, of foreign born Jews and Jewish proselytes to whom Greek was the mother tongue. This translation received the name of "Septuagint," from the tradition that it was made by seventy or seventy-two learned men, who were formed into a kind of college for the purpose in the isle of Pharos, near Alexandria and by direction of Ptolemy Philadelphus. The Septuagint was much quoted by our Lord and His Apostles, and it was universally believed in early christian times that it had been translated from the Hebrew under Divine influence, so as to be very accurate. * *

The oldest known copy of the Bible has the Old Testament of this Greek Version, and, although it was written about 300 years after the death of our Lord, it is thought to be a fair representative of the Bible, as it was known to the Apostolic Age before the New Testament was written. About sixteen years after our Lord's death and Ascension, St. Peter wrote his first Epistle, which is the earliest portion of the New Testament. The other books were all written within the next twenty years except the Gospel of St. John, and perhaps, the Revelation.

And thus after 1600 years of gradual growth, "the brook became a river, and the river became a sea," the volume of the Holy Bible expanded from the Pentateuch to the Old Testament from the Law to the Gospel, and was

then sent forth into the Christianized World, almost exactly in the form in which it has been known for the eighteen subsequent centuries.—*Blunt.*

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THE FACTS OF OUR RELIGION.

MEN cannot and will not be satisfied by mere opinion. They want to know facts; they ask to know GOD; who He is; and what He has done for them. They ask for God's certainty, and not man's fancies. While we stand perplexed we hear a voice pealing forth through the lapse of centuries, springing up to heaven on the wings of thanksgiving, blended with the incense of daily worship—it is that old Catholic faith which is the heritage of the Christian Church. The Church takes us back to the great Council of Nicea in the year 325. It was called by the Emperor Constantine. It met to consider the new Arian heresies. The Church had suffered ten terrible persecutions. For three hundred years the Christian had been a hunted outlaw. Those were the times when Christians wrote such letters as this: 'I know that before the sun goes down I shall be ground by the teeth of the lions, but rejoice, I shall sup with Jesus in Paradise.'

"The world has never seen a nobler company of Christian Bishops. The old men carried upon their bodies the marks of their suffering for Jesus. They did not come together to make a faith. They came to bear witness to 'the faith which was once delivered to the saints.' One by one they stated from whom they had received