

the translating of others into that language. The most of these were published in England, where also his translation of the Bible, though printed abroad, was prepared for the press.' This edition contains, by way of proface, an exhortation to the reader, in which, after stating that his work was a revised edition of Cassiodoro de Royn's Bible, he adds:—

"I was fifty years old when I commenced this work, and in this year, 1602, in which it has pleased my God to bring it to light, I am seventy years old (an age in which the strength fails, the memory is dull, and the eyes grow dim). I have, therefore, been employed in this work for twenty years; all which labour I consider very well bestowed.' And he then proceeds, in language which may well be addressed to his countrymen of the present day, while he expresses all the motives with which the republication of his work is now undertaken:—'My intention has been, to serve my God, and to do good to my nation. And how can I do so better than in presenting it with the means which God has ordained to gain souls to Him, which is the reading of the sacred Scriptures? Here good news is offered to the poor; here a medicine is given to heal the broken hearted; here is preached liberty to the captives and sight to the blind; here is published the acceptable year of the Lord; here the mourners are comforted; and the rest which Isaiah says in chap. lxi., and which the Lord quotes in Luke iv. 18. May it please God, for his Christ's sake, to accept this my MINCHAH (thank-offering), this my evening sacrifice which I offer to Him in my old age. I pray Him to bless this his work, so that his holy name which is published in it may be sanctified in Spain as it is in other nations.'

"It would seem that the circulation of this work on its first appearance in Spain was much more extensive than might have been expected; for the celebrated Diodati, in a letter to the Synod of Alencon, dated May 1, 1637, says:—

"The new Spanish translation of Cipriano de Valera has produced incredible effects in Spain; no less than three thousand copies having penetrated, by secret ways and conveyances, into the very heart of that kingdom.'

"And then he adds;—

"Let others publish the fruit of my Italian version, both in Italy and elsewhere.'

"The fruit of his own labour, thus alluded to by Diodati, seems likely now, under the Divine blessing, to become more abundant than it ever was in his own time, or than he himself, probably, ever ventured to anticipate. The demand for his faithful translation of the Bible has in-

creased, of late, to such an extent in Italy, as to have provoked the publication there, by authority, of Martini's translation of the New Testament from the Vulgate, for sale at a comparatively cheap rate, and strange to say, even for gratuitous distribution. Martini was Archbishop of Florence half a century ago; and his translation, which is the only Italian version of the Bible allowed to be sold or read in Italy, was for many years to be legally obtained in that country, only in 23, 31, or 36 vols. octavo, with the Latin Vulgate text in a parallel column, and accompanied with copious explanatory notes, or in 17 vols. octavo, or 12 vols. of a smaller size, without the Latin text. Its voluminous additions have more recently appeared, and the whole work can now be obtained in three volumes of the largest 8 vo. form, but at a cost which, comparatively, only a few Italians can afford to pay. Various cheap editions of the Italian text alone, printed without the notes, from time to time, some in Italy, and others in London, have been all put into the 'Index,' or catalogue of books prohibited to be sold. The copy of the New Testament now put forth by authority omits the Vulgate Latin, but retains the notes; and the selling price of it unbound is seven Pauls, or about three shillings.

"But this publication by no means meets the craving for the pure word of God, now existing and daily increasing in Italy. There, no less than in Spain, translations from the Vulgate are looked upon with suspicion. It is known that Diodati's version represents the sense of the Hebrew and Greek originals. Diodati they ask for, Diodati they will have, and Diodati, in spite of all obstacles, they get. Other societies, employing agents for the distribution of Bibles and Testaments abroad, have found means of introducing it largely. But a preference is always manifested for this Society's last edition of Diodati's version, wherever it has been seen and examined; and avoiding, for reasons which will be understood and appreciated, all mention of names, either of persons or places, it will be sufficient to state that through the ordinary operation of grants made to certain members of the Society who have applied for them, or from purchases by others for this purpose, many copies of this edition have found their way into various parts of Italy, and excited a desire for a much larger supply. The consequence has been, that the Foreign Translation Committee has been obliged, to take measures for printing immediately a new edition of the New Testament, of the same form and size as the present; and, to meet a special request on the part of Italians themselves,

it was determined, at the same time, to put forth another edition in 8 vo., and in larger type, for the comfort and convenience of older and weaker eyes.

"One mode in which this beautiful edition of Diodati's version has been made known to Italians, and been largely distributed among them, may be mentioned without reserve; because it has already been several times brought under the notice of the Board, and has been openly published to the world. While this Society was supplying our own soldiers and sailors, who had gone to the war, with Bibles and Prayer Books, it was not unnatural that, when Sardinia joined the Western Alliance, and determined on sending troops into the Crimea, an idea should be suggested of the propriety of furnishing those troops also with copies of the Holy Scriptures. Accordingly, the Rev. J. D. Hales, Incumbent of St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, a member of the Society who has always taken a lively interest in the operations of the Foreign Translation Committee, and to whom the Committee is indebted for many valuable suggestions on the subject of their revised edition of Diodati's Bible soon raised with the assistance of his friends a very considerable fund, for the express purpose of distributing copies of that edition of the Bible and New Testament among our Sardinian allies. To meet purchases made from time to time out of that fund, supplies were occasionally added from the stock placed by the Board at the disposal of the Foreign Translation Committee for gratuitous distribution as need or favorable opportunities might arise. The result of this effort on behalf of our Italian allies has been most satisfactory.

A Bishopric of Westminster is about to be created. According to an announcement in the *Times* the diocese of London will henceforth consist of all that portion of the metropolis which is within the city walls in addition to the extensive parishes of Bethnal-green, Clerkenwell, Islington, Limehouse, Shoreditch, Stepney, St. George's East, Whitechapel, Hackney, and Stoke Newington, together with several parishes in Essex, and Kent Surrey, which are at present under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. A large portion of what at present constitutes the Archdeaconry of Middlesex will be placed under the control of the Bishop of Westminster, and the Abbey will be his cathedral church. The new diocese will comprise the whole of the parishes within the city of Westminster St. Pancras, Mary-le-Bone, Paddington, Kensington, St. Giles's, St. George's, Bloomsbury, Chelsea, Hampstead, Zulham, Hammersmith, and the several outlying parishes. There will be one Archdeacon for the diocese of London, and two for the diocese of Westminster.