

Literary Lines.

The latest request to translate Book r Washington's Biography comes from an Arabian.

A manuscript work of Martin Luther, hitherto unknown, made up of theological treatises written in Latin, has been found in the library of a deceased Russian prince.

Immediately above the bust of Sir Walter Scott in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey will now be found a memorial of John Ruskin in the form of a bronze medallion.

The largest library in the world is the National Library of Paris, which contains forty miles of shelves, holding 1,400,000 books, besides 175,000 manuscripts, 300,000 maps and charts, and 150,000 coins and medals.

Viewed merely as a literary production, the Bible is a marvellous Book, and without a rival. All the libraries of theology, philosophy, history, antiquities, poetry, law, and every other branch of material enough for so rich a treasure of the choicest gems of human genius, wisdom, and experience.—Philip Schaff.

A discussion having arisen recently as to the church relations of Sir Walter Scott, a thorough investigation of records was made, and it is shown that he was not only a communicant in the Presbyterian Church, but a ruling elder as well, and that he was twice a commissioner to the general assembly. He was also on a number of occasions a member of presbytery and of synods.

That the general public are interested in religion, the Bible would particularly the story of the evangelists, is abundantly proven by the circulation of novels moving about a religious theme. A book published a generation ago, and the copyright of which has expired—"The Prince of the House of David"—has had a sale of over four million copies; and the record of "Ben Hur"—with the sale still growing—is 725,000.

Methodist Chat.

Fourteen Methodist Gospel cars are now at work in England. The last, the "Immanuel," will work in the spiritually destitute parts of the Birmingham and Shrewsbury district. The first car was dedicated sixteen years ago by Rev. Thomas Champness.

Bishop Mallalieu says: "I have good news from Rev. Elihu Grant in Palestine. If things go along as we expect, we shall soon have regular monthly preaching (Methodist) in Jerusalem. How Gilbert Haven would rejoice! It was the dream of his life to see our Church in Palestine."

An exchange says: "Methodism is a world-wide force. Its growth has been most noteworthy. According to the compiled statistics of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Dorchester, it now has 47,061 ministers and 7,833,456 members. An increasing baptism of the Holy Spirit, and greater home and foreign activity as a converting and evangelizing agency are now needed."

Dr. John Henry Barrows says of the Methodist Church: "One of the bodies the Methodist, with a little more than a hundred years of history, has made in that century a progress unparalleled in the annals of Christendom; it numbers to-day, in all its branches, with communicants and their families, a Methodist population of twenty-two millions, scattered all over the world; it has followed our American civilization in its march to the Pacific Sea; has kept burning the fires of a holy evangelism; it has been among the foremost in urging temperance and other reforms."

Dr. Howard Crosby once said, speaking before the Methodist General Conference, in Brooklyn: "I rejoice to believe that when God sent the Methodist Episcopal Church into America, that church was called and elected—called and elected to conquer the country in order to put forth and activity into the Presbyterian Church, and it has made its calling and its election sure."

A united Methodist hymn-book in England is said to be now clear. It is headed by the Wesleyans, embracing about 2,112,000 adherents, the Methodist New Connexion with 168,000, the Reform Union with 44,000, the Irish Methodists with 100,000 and the Methodists of the Commonwealth of Australia with probably 1,900,000, making an approximate total of 3,500,000 Methodists, shall unite in using the hymnal now ready.

Dr. Louis A. Banks says that a Congregational preacher told him how, on one occasion, he was determined to be ahead of the Methodist itinerant in a new town where the railroad track had just been laid. A train load carrying an auctioneer and men who intended to buy town lots, and prospective home-makers, packed that train. The Congregational home missionary rode in the baggage car behind the engine, determined that he would be the first on the ground. But to his dismay, when the train slowed up and he emerged from his car, he saw the Methodist circuit-rider leap from the cow-catcher, mallet in hand, to drive down stakes for the new Methodist church.

General Religious News.

Bishop Warne writes of taking part in a service in which 1,339 persons were baptized. It sounds like Pentecost.

The Michigan Christian Advocate says: "We see nothing that promises so great an uplift and advance in our American churches as the swelling tide of missionary intelligence and zeal."

Last year the seventy-two colporteurs, or travelling agents, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, distributed 510,399 copies of the Bible in Russia. About two-fifths of the number were sold, the remainder given away.

Not until recently have the Japanese book-sellers been willing to carry the Bible in stock, for fear of offending their Buddhist patrons. Now, however, Bibles are so eagerly sought that they are kept on sale in all the prominent book-stores in Japan.

Canon Farrar is said to have urged with great warmth and persistency that the Church of England "strip off part of her ecclesiastical vestments and omit something of the sonorous phraseology of her prayer-book, and adapt herself to the plain living and plain speaking of the common people."

The translation of the Bible is still going on, and it would seem that at a not far distant date every tongue and dialect will have received the Word of God. The latest step is to translate the Bible into the Morocco colloquial. G. S. Fisher, who is now in Morocco, writes: "We have now the text for the Gospel of Luke almost ready for the press and are in correspondence with the American Bible Society concerning its publication."

Rev. Charles A. Eaton, D.D., pastor of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland, of which John D. Rockefeller is Sunday-school superintendent, has announced his intention of adopting radical measures in order to create a revival of religion, and will go to the downtown streets and preach on the street corners to whoever will stop to listen to him. Dr. Eaton is one of the most prominent clergymen of the city, and formerly preached in Toronto.

A revival, "widespread, and daily gaining in momentum," is reported as in progress in the Asiatic squadrons of the British and American navies. "It began," writes Mr. F. S. Brockman, "in Shanghai and Hong Kong when the men-of-war and the missionaries had to be in these ports because of the trouble on our warship, twenty-nine on another, and so on." "One of the most gratifying features," continues Mr. Brockman, "is the active co-operation on the part of the officers, some of them very high office."

Prominent People.

Prince Henry, who has been visiting the United States, is a clock-maker. His brother, the Kaiser, was taught the trade of glove-making. Their father, the Emperor Frederick, of noble memory, thought his boys should know a trade, princes though they were.

There was a time when Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, the famous traveller, was a critic of missions to the non-Christian populations of the world. Then came a stage of her development when she was a friend of missions, and now it is said that she intends to enter upon missionary work in India.

Mr. George Alfred Henty, the writer of stories for boys, is at present writing at the rate of three books a year. He has eighty stories to his credit now. He reported for the London Standard the Austro-Italian, Franco-Prussian, and Turko-Servian wars, and the Abyssinian and Ashantee expeditions.

Julius Verne has become blind, and a testimonial is being raised to the writer whose prophecies, told in the form of thrilling novels, have caused the world to wonder. It is his ambition to complete his hundredth novel in 1910. The people of Amiens intended to celebrate the event by decorating the city.

That remarkable young woman, Helen Keller, deaf and blind, on receiving a complete edition of the raised-letter print of the Scriptures, wrote her acknowledgments to Dr. Fox in these words: "I am studying the Bible in college this year and reading it with a delight that increases from day to day. Life grows richer and sweeter, as God's great truths unfold themselves to me."

Mrs. Rebecca Salome Foster, the "Tombs Angel," a victim of the recent fire at Park Avenue Hotel, New York, is mourned by all who have to do with city courts and prisons. In so high esteem was she held by the criminal courts adjourned during her funeral. Mrs. Foster was a woman of broad philanthropy, who maintained toward the unfortunate in the city prisons the attitude of a mother toward her erring children, rather than that of a missionary. She was indefatigable in her work for the prisoners, and not only led many to change their modes of life but often succeeded in establishing the innocence of those in whom she had confidence.

When the late Newman Hall visited America he was given a reception in Boston, which he thus described: "An immense multitude listened to my speech, and loudly cheered when I pointed to their flag floating above me and said: 'There is not a flag in the world so glorious as the Stars and Stripes.' Here the applause was overwhelming, and delayed me some time; but I had not finished my sentence—my hand was still outstretched—and when I then pointed to the British flag waving by side, and in the loudest tones: 'excepting that of the United States,' the cheers were renewed, and intensified with the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, showing the generous enthusiasm for the old country."