

it is justly replied, that it has not secured accuracy, and that until lately, when public attention has been directed to the subject, the Bible has been printed most inaccurately. To quote Mr. Thomson again :—

“The errors in authorised editions—that is, editions issued by the privileged printers—have been almost innumerable. It were easy to adduce some very extraordinary specimens. An old Scotch edition makes the apostle Paul say, “Know ye not, that the righteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Another Scotch edition makes the “four beasts,” in the Apocalypse, the “*sour* beasts;” while Basket’s folio Bible, printed at Oxford in 1717, has for the running-title at Luke xxii., instead of “the parable of the vineyard,” “the parable of the *vinegar*,” whence it went by the name of the *vinegar Bible*. But, not to multiply instances of blunders simply ludicrous, will it be believed that the errors in some of the editions printed since the beginning of the present century may be reckoned by thousands? The most flagrant case is that given in evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, by George Offor, who states that a schoolfellow of his had corrected a copy of a nonpareil Bible printed at Oxford, and found no fewer than 12,000 errors in it, no doubt the great bulk of these errors are of trifling nature, but what do they say for a system which pretends to secure the pink of accuracy? The tendency of monopoly is to set men asleep; it is free competition which puts them on their mettle.”

It is added with justice, that a private printer’s regard for his own interest will be a safeguard against errors; for if the text of the Bible he produces is erroneous, his property is rendered worthless, and his name as a Bible printer destroyed.

As to the question of cheapness, the effects following the abolition of the monopoly in Scotland, is sufficient answer.

Take the two following Bibles as a specimen :—The 12mo, or school Bible, bound in sheep, which, during the time of the monopoly, used to be sold at 3s. 6d., is now reduced to 13½d.; and the 24mo, or pocket Bible, bound in embossed roan, with gilt edges, which used to be sold at 5s., is now reduced to 1s.

Of course—and this is a delightful fact—with the reduced prices came an immense increase in the circulation; an increase not counted by thousands, but by millions; and it is not too much to say that if the Scotch monopoly had been renewed, the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society would have been circumscribed to an extent of which we have, perhaps, no adequate conception. Let us hope and pray for the success of the free trade movement.

CHURCH RATES.—The second reading of Sir J. Trelawney’s bill for the total and unconditional abolition of Church Rates was carried in the House of Commons on July 13th, by the large majority of 73. Lords Palmerston and Russell expressed themselves in favor of the bill, and voted accordingly. We feel persuaded now that it will not be the fault of the leaders of the Government if there is not a speedy settlement of this long vexed question;—not this session, we fear though, for the House of Lords has appointed a committee “to enquire into the present operation of the law and practice respecting the assessment and levy of Church rates.” The motive for this is transparent: if it is sent up from the Commons, their lordships cannot of course take action, as “the whole subject is under the consideration of a committee of their House.”

THE BIBLE IN INDIA.—Lord Mayor Wise entertained a large party of Bishops and clergymen at the Mansion House on Tuesday to commemorate the founding of the Association for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Lord John