

tablishing efficient schools for the French-speaking population, and where, consequently, there will be an immediate and increasing demand for such publications.

“ For use in the Diocese of Cape Town, translations into the Dutch language of Bishop Wilson’s ‘ Treatise on the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper,’ and the Rev. James Meyrick’s ‘ Short Manual of Prayers for Common Occasions,’ have been added to the Society’s Catalogue in the course of the last year.

“ The Lord Bishop of Barbadoes having informed the Society of a considerable influx into Trinidad, and some of the neighbouring West India Islands, of Chinese Coolies, most of whom could read their own language, and having begged to be supplied with a few good and simple Tracts for their use and instruction, the Foreign Translation Committee were requested to communicate with the Lord Bishop of Victoria upon the subject. The result has been that five such Tracts, prepared by the Bishop’s desire, under the direction of Archdeacon Cobbold, have been sent to the Society ready cut, in the Chinese characters, on wooden blocks; from these blocks stereotype plates have been cast in London, and 500 copies of the Tracts, for use in the West Indies, are now being struck off at the printer’s. These tracts will, of course, be useful in many other parts of the world to which Chinese Coolies are emigrating, at present in large numbers. A copy of the Tracts, as well as of the other publications already mentioned in this Report, are now presented to the Board.

“ But to come now to the more appropriate sphere of labour allotted to the Foreign Translation Committee, viz. the translation of the Holy Scriptures and of the Book of Common Prayer, the Committee have to report, that the printing of Mr. Brett’s Arawak Version of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, preceded by a considerable portion of the Book of Genesis, has been completed; and that a new and revised edition of the Society’s German translation of the Book of Common Prayer has been published. And of these works copies are now laid upon the table.

“ Of other works reported last year to be in progress, the Foreign Translation Committee have much pleasure in stating, that the new edition of the Greek Septuagint is proceeding in a most satisfactory manner, under the able hands of Mr. Field, the editor of the Homilies of St. Chrysostom; and that the printing of the new Arabic Version of the Old Testament, under the superintendence of Professor

Jarrett, assisted by Mr. Fares, has reached the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

“ At the request of the Lord Bishop of Natal, the Committee have recently undertaken the printing of a translation of the Acts of the Apostles in the language of the Zulu Caffers, as spoken in the Diocese of Natal; the only portions of the Bible, as yet existing in that language, being the Gospel of St. Matthew, of which also the Society defrayed the expense of printing, the Epistle to the Romans, and the Book of Psalms. The author of the translation in question, originally a pupil of Mr. Shepstone, after living in Natal for three years, in constant intercourse with the people, and for the most part at a distance from English inhabitants, is now in England to correct the press, and has the advantage, in the preparation of the copy, of the co-operation of a clergyman, an accurate Greek scholar, conversant with the Zulu language, as well as the assistance of a very intelligent native convert, from whom to ascertain that the words selected will convey their proper meaning to his countrymen. With these advantages, and with an assurance from such an authority as Mr. Shepstone that the author of the translation was well qualified for the work, the Committee had no hesitation in complying with the wish of the Bishop of Natal, that it should be printed and published under their sanction; and it is now, accordingly, in the press.

The Board must have observed how frequently during the past year they have been called upon to make grants of Spanish Bibles and Testaments for distribution in Spain, in Spanish America, and among sailors frequenting our ports in Spanish merchant ships. The fact is, that a somewhat larger amount of religious liberty having been of late by law conceded to the people, Spain seems now to be awakening, so to speak, out of the sleep of ages, and is seeking the light which, it is conscious, can be obtained in all its purity only from the inspired word of God. Hence has arisen an increasing demand for copies of the Holy Scriptures in the Spanish language, with a preference for translations representing, like the Society’s version, the sense of the Hebrew and Greek originals, and not according with the Latin Vulgate, like those of Scio, and Torres Amot.

“ Attention has been drawn to the works of their ancient Reformers, and, in particular, a desire has been excited to possess the justly celebrated translation of the Bible, published in 1602, by Cipriano de Valera. With such rigour and perseverance was this edition of the Bible searched for and destroyed by the Inquisition in Spain, that copies of it are now but rarely to be met with. An attempt

was made to reprint it last year in Madrid, but it failed; and certain portions of it have recently been published, with modernized orthography, both in London and in Scotland. But it appears to be so important to supply, as soon as may be practicable, and in as satisfactory a manner as possible, the demand which has now arisen from this venerable version of the Holy Scriptures, that the Foreign Translation Committee have determined to undertake the work upon the plan they adopted so successfully, as they have reason to believe, with their new edition of Diodati’s Bible; the Spanish version of Cipriano de Valera requiring, for the Spaniard of the present day, just the same kind of revision which has rendered the translation of Diodati suitable to the apprehension and taste of the modern Italian. For the effecting of this object the Committee have been able to make such arrangements, and to engage such assistants, as seem to promise a successful accomplishment of the work.

“ The history of the original version is not uninteresting, and it is soon told. The particulars are found more in detail in Dr. McCrie’s ‘ History of the Reformation in Spain.’ The work may be said to have originated with Juan Perez, who was sent to Rome in 1527 as *chargé d’affaires* of Charles V., and procured from the Pope a suspension of the decree, by which the Spanish divines had condemned the writings of Erasmus. Subsequently he was placed at the head of the College of Doctrine at Seville, where he became intimate with Egilius and other favorers of the Reformation. His talents and probity secured him the esteem of foreigners, among whom he afterwards resided, first at Geneva, and afterwards in France. Juan Perez published a version of the New Testament in 1556; and his translation of the Psalms followed in the course of the subsequent year. These works were both printed at Venice. He died not long afterwards at Paris, having bequeathed all his fortune to the printing of the Bible in his native tongue. The task which he left unfinished was continued by Cassiodoro de Reyna, who, after ten years’ labor, printed a translation of the whole Bible, in 1569, at Basle. It was revised and corrected by Cipriano de Valera, who published the New Testament in 1596, in London, and both Testaments in 1602, at Amsterdam. Cipriano it is said came to England ‘ soon after the accession of Elizabeth, and appears to have spent the remainder of his life chiefly in this country. After studying for some time in both Universities, he devoted himself to the writing of original works in Spanish, and

\* “ This is the edition called ‘ the Bear Bible,’ from its having the figure of a bear on the title-page.