

lustre of the ink. The work contained twelve hundred and eighty-two pages, and, being the first ever printed, of course involved a long period of time, and an immense amount of mental and mechanical labour; and yet, for a long period of time after it had been finished and offered for sale, not a single human being, save the artists themselves, knew how it had been accomplished. Of the first printed Bible, eighteen copies are known to be in existence, four of which are printed on vellum. Two of these are in England, one being in the Grenville collection. One is in the royal library of Berlin, and one in the royal library of Paris. Of the fourteen remaining copies, ten are in England, there being one copy in each of the libraries of Oxford, Edinburgh, and London, and seven in the collections of different noblemen. The vellum copy has been sold as high as \$1300. James Lennox, Esq., of this city, has a copy in his library, which was purchased by Mr. David Davidson, agent for Messrs. Wiley & Putnam, at auction, in London, in 1848, for the sum of £500, sterling, equal to \$2220, independent of freight or duties. The custom-house officers passed it free of duty, in consideration of its being a curiosity. It is the only copy on this side of the Atlantic.—[N. Y. Christian Intelligencer.

Early Versions of the Bible.—As soon as printing was invented, Christianity availed itself of the discovery, for the purpose of multiplying copies of the Holy Scriptures in every language, as may be seen by the following detail:—

	A. D.
1st. Faust's Catholic Edition,	1462
2nd. Bender's on Bember's,	1467
3rd. Malermis' Italian Bible,	1471
4th. Four Gospels, (Belgic,)	1472
5th. Entire Bible, do,	1475
6th. Julian's (an Augustine Monk,)	1477
7th. Delft Edition,	1477
8th. B. Ferrier's Edition, (Spanish,)	1478
9th. Gouda Edition,	1479
10th. Guyard's des Moulin's, (French,)	1490
11th. Four Versions printed before,	1522
12th. Luther's New Testament, (Protestant,)	1522
13th. Estaple's New Testament, (Catholic,)	1523
14th. Tyndal's New Testament, (Protestant,)	1526
15th. Estaple's Old Testament, (Catholic,)	1528
16th. First Protestant Belgic Version,	1527
17th. Luther's Old Testament, (Protestant,)	1530
18th. Tyndal's Penteteuch, (Protestant,)	1530
19th. Bruciolis' Italian Bible, (Catholic,)	1532
20th. Coverdale's Version, (Protestant,)	1535
21st. Olivater's French History, (Protestant,)	1537
22nd. First Italian Protestant Version,	1563
23rd. Antwerp and Louvian Bible, (Catholic,)	1578
24th. Rhenish Testament, (Catholic,)	1582

In the beginning of the next century the Catholic Douay Bible was published, and was followed by the well-known King James' Protestant Bible. The oldest and most known manuscripts are:—

1st. German Catholic MSS. A. D.,	800
2nd. Italian do. do.	1270
3rd. Spanish do. do.	1280
4th. Anglo-Saxon, do.	1200 and 1300
5th. French Catholic do.	1299

But the latin versions were generally used as long as the latin continued to be spoken and understood in Europe.—[English paper.

Wycliffe's Version.—"The long expected reprint of the English Version of the Scriptures, made from Latin Vulgate by Wycliffe and his followers, has just appeared in four quarto volumes. It is from the Oxford University Press, and has been produced under the able editorship of the Rev. John Forshall, Secretary of the British Museum, and Sir Frederic Madden, Keeper of the Manuscripts in the same institution. We trust to be enabled to make a full report of it in our next number.—[Journal of Sacred Literature.

Distribution of the Bible.—The entire dispersion of Bibles and Testaments in English at home and abroad, during the last fifty years, has been about 27,000,000. It has also been estimated that within the last fifty years 32,000,000 of Bibles has been distributed over the earth, translated into two hundred dialects.

Periodical Press.—The *Jameston* (Chautauque) *Journal*, publishes a lecture, delivered as one of an academic course, by D. Sherman, Esq., which gives an interesting history of the Periodical Press, derived from authentic sources, and exceedingly well presented. The first newspaper was issued in manuscript, at Venice, in 1533, and was called the *Gazette*. The first printed newspaper was published in England, in 1533, called *The English Mercurie*, imprinted by Her Majesty's Printer. The paper was not regularly published. The first periodical newspaper was published at Frankfort, Germany, in 1610. In 1624, the *Public Intelligencer* and *London Gazette* was established. Soon afterwards various papers had their entrances and exits in London, among which were *The Scots Dove*, *The Parliament Kite*, *The Secret Owl*, &c. *The Spectator* was the first purely literary journal. It appeared in 1711. This publication, as it is known,

owes its immortality to Addison. *The Tatler*, conducted by Sir Richard Steele, though published a short time previous, was not exclusively literary. The first French newspaper was published at Paris, in 1631, by Ronandot, a Physician. The first Literary Journal and Review ever published was *Le Journal des Savans*, commenced in 1665, in France. There are now published in France, seven hundred and fifty journals, of which three hundred and ten are political. The first American paper was *The Boston News-Letter*, which appeared on the 24th of April, 1719. *The Boston Gazette* was started soon after. The third American newspaper was the *American Weekly Mercury* which appeared in Philadelphia on the 22nd of December, 1719. The fourth American newspaper was the *New England Courant*, established at Boston, August 17, 1721, by James Franklin, elder brother to him rendered his name so illustrious.

London Periodicals.—It is stated that in London the sales of periodicals are as follows:—*The Family Herald*, 175,000; *London Journal*, 170,000; *Reynolds' Miscellany* and other works, 55,000; *Lloyd's Miscellany* and other works, 95,000. Some of the publications sell for three half-pence, and their reputed circulation are these:—*Chambers' Journal*, 80,000; *Eliza Cook's Journal*, 15,000; *Leigh Hunt's Journal*, 6,000; *London Labour and Poor*, 12,000; *Household Words*, 30,000; *Holyoke's* and *Watson's* publications, most of which are sold for two-pence, nearly 12,000.

A century ago, the amount expended in books, periodicals, and newspapers, did not exceed £100,000 a-year, whereas the sum now so expended annually is calculated at £2,100,000.

Discovery of a Beautiful Cave in Manchester, VI.—We learn from the Vermont Union *Whig*, that a party of hunters discovered a beautiful cave in Manchester in that state, on the 7th inst. The cave is situated upon the southern extremity of the equinox mountain, about half way from the base of the summit. The entrance is by a gradual descent of about 30 feet, into a spacious apartment, measuring 36 feet in length, 27 feet in breadth, and 13 in height, and having a bottom as level and almost as smooth as a floor. From this room a narrow passage leads into an apartment far exceeding the former, both in extent and magnificence, and in which were found three colossal pillars, 20 feet in height and 15 in circumference, of spectral whiteness, and smooth as polished marble. In the third room were found considerable quantities of iron and lead, together with a kind of ore resembling silver. The exploration was continued until after passing through no less than nine apartments the party found themselves upon the brink of a precipice. On throwing down a large stone, a faint splash was returned after a few seconds, from which was inferred the existence of a pond of water at the bottom of the abyss. The whole of the cavern, with the exception of this pond, was perfectly dry.

New Wingless Bird.—At the meeting of the Linnean Society, Dec. 17th, Mr. Westwood called the attention of the Society to a wingless bird on Lord Howe's island—an island situate between New Holland and Norfolk Island. This spot has been accidentally visited by Captain Poole, of the East India Company's Service, who, considering it a favourable spot for colonization, has induced six Irishmen and their wives and families to settle on it. The place is now one of constant resort for the supply of water and provisions to the South Sea whalers. As no Government has owned it, this island is at present the property of Captain Poole. It is of considerable extent, and has on it two high hills which can be seen at a distance of sixteen leagues at sea. On this Island Captain Poole has discovered the bird in question. It is about the size of a rail—and is considered by the settlers as good eating. Mr. Westwood thought the announcement of the existence of this bird—which was not previously known to exist in those regions—would be received with interest in connection with the discovery of the extinct wingless birds of New Zealand. No specimen has yet arrived in England, but some are on their way.—*Athenæum*.

Wonders of Chemistry.—Aqua-fortis and the air we breathe are made of the same materials. Linen, and sugar, and spirits of wine, are so much alike in their chemical composition that an old shirt can be converted into its own weight in sugar, and the sugar into spirits of wine. Wine is made of two substances—one of which is the cause of almost all combinations of burning, and the other will burn with more rapidity than any thing in nature. The famous Peruvian bark, so much used to strengthen stomachs, and the poisonous principles of opium, are formed of the same materials.—[Scientific American.

Geological Discovery.—The following interesting geological discovery has just been made by General Cullen at Cochín:—A question having been raised as to the relative positions of that most mysterious of rocks, laterite, and the shell limestone on which in this quarter it was said to rest, General Cullen caused a well to be dug from the top of the cliff, about 40 feet above the level of the sea, downwards to this depth; it was about 80 feet inland. At the depth of 37½ feet he came to shell of limestone