

"(5.) Great pains have been taken with the arrangement of the paragraphs, the object being to let the Sacred Writings fall as much as possible into their *natural divisions*. There cannot be any doubt that the division of the Bible into chapters and verses is very useful for purposes of reference, but it is often somewhat artificial, and it not unfrequently tends to hinder the reader from seeing the whole connection of a passage. Although this mode of arranging the Bible is very ancient, the system of writing and printing in paragraphs is still more ancient. Whilst Hebrew Bibles are divided into chapters and verses for facility of reference, they are always printed in the paragraph form. In the same way the rolls of the law read in the synagogue every Sabbath day are written in paragraphs, without any enumeration of chapters and verses. The same is the case with the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. The first English Bibles—those of Coverdale, Tyndale, Cranmer, &c.—were printed in paragraphs, whilst the Bibles printed abroad at still earlier dates—such as the German Bible, printed at Augsburg in 1474—had no breaks of any sort except at the ends of the books. Martin Luther divided his Bible into short paragraphs, which were arranged with great care. In 1557 Dean Whittingham, whilst a refugee at Geneva, brought out for the first time an English New Testament, divided into verses for the convenience of readers. The Geneva Bible followed in 1560; and from that time the verse division has generally been adopted.

"Convenient, however, as the verse system is, the difficulties created by the artificial divisions which it involves have been seriously felt, and various attempts have been made, especially by the Religious Tract Society, to reintroduce the paragraph system.

"The present work is to a great extent in accordance with the last edition of the Religious Tract Society's Paragraph Bible. The editor has endeavoured to print the New Testament in such a form as its varied contents require. Thus the narratives have been broken up into paragraphs wherever a new fact of importance was introduced; the dialogues held between our Lord and those persons to whom He spake "as never man spake," have been printed as *dialogues*; long didactic discourses and addresses, such as the Sermon on the Mount, and St. Stephen's Speech before the Council, have been subdivided according to the leading topics which they contain. The arguments in the Epistles have also been broken up wherever their nature admitted of it.

"The adoption of these principles has resulted in a book which, it is hoped, will prove useful in schools and among all classes, tending to facilitate the intelligent reading of God's Word, and thus encouraging and aiding the poorest and the most uneducated to become 'mighty in the Scriptures.'"

The prices at which the Paragraph New Testament may be purchased are as follows:—

In sheep, for schools, 9 cents.

In roan, gilt or red edges, 23 cents.

Coloured calf or morocco, gilt edges, 42 cents.

A VOICE FROM THE HEATHEN.

All the missionaries, in every language and dialect of the pagan world, and of all evangelical denominations, unite in claiming the press as indispensable to the establishment of Christianity in their respective fields. It is a great triumph to get the Lord's prayer, or a single chapter of the Bible, or page of a tract printed in the native tongue. What would Christian nations be without any thing printed or written? Every mission proceeds as early as possible to acquire not only the spoken but the written language. The whole