

came the creator of Bibles for India. Here, with Marshman and Ward, the "consecrated cobbler" was to spend many years of active service, laying strong foundations for the future of missions to the Hindus.

(To be continued.)

THE BIBLE WORK OF THE WORLD.

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Nineteen centuries ago the world had only one translation of the Bible—the Septuagint—the Bible of the Hellenistic Jews, the Bible of the apostles and first Christians. This translation was the first missionary to make the Gentile world acquainted with monotheism, and prepared the way for the introduction of Christianity. The influence of this version was felt so much among the Jews in the early Christian times that the rabbis regarded the day on which this translation was made as a great calamity, equal to that of the worship of the golden calf. To supersede the Septuagint, men like Aquila, Symmachus, and Theodotion undertook new versions into Greek. The object failed, and only fragments of these translations are now extant, while the Septuagint is studied, and scholars are at work to bring out such a recension which will give us the best possible text that can now be attained.

In the course of time other translations were prepared, and when the Reformation was ushered in, the European nations had the Bible in English, Anglo-Saxon, Old Erse, Flemish, German, Bohemian, Provincial, Gothic, Latin, Greek, Slavonic; in Asia the Bible was read in Hebrew, Aramaic, Samaritan, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, Arabic, Persian; and in Africa the great deeds of God were read in Koptie (in its three dialects) and Ethiopic. The Reformation, which encouraged the reading and study of the Bible, also promoted the work of translation, and at the beginning of this century the European nations read the Bible in Welsh, Gaelic, Breton, Manx, French, Basque, Spanish, Portuguese, Old Norse or Icelandic, Norwegian-Danish, Swedish, Lapp, Dutch, Finn, Russ, Rouman, Lifu, Polish, Wendish (in two dialects), Osmanli-Turki, Magyar, Italian, Romansh, Latt, Karniola (or Sloven), Elst (Reval dialect), Nogai (Krim dialect). Asia had received the Bible in Sinhali, Malay, Tamil, Formosa, and America in New England. Altogether, the Bible existed, at the beginning of this century, in 54 languages, or, rather, 51 languages and 3 dialects, representing Europe, with 36; Asia, with 11; Africa, with 2, and America, with 1 language; and when this century closes the Bible will be read in about eight times as many languages on the globe of the earth—i.e., in about 400 languages. Large as this number may seem, and beautiful as such a collection of Bible versions may appear, yet it would only represent a fraction of what has really to be done. It is certain that there are more than 2000 languages in the world. No finality has been at-