

THE



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Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, 17.

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CRITICAL NOTICES.

The Book and its Story.

The Book and its Story: a narrative for the young, on occasion of the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1853.

The title of this work will sufficiently explain its character and objects. It contains the "story" of the Bible from the first revelation to the completion of the sacred Canon, with the interesting details of its translation and circulation, from the earliest efforts until the present time. It is not, however, to be understood that it is a work specially adapted for the young, as the style would seem to imply. We thought of ourselves at first, but were soon undeceived; and we are greatly mistaken if it is not regarded as a book suited to all ages, and perused with interest by all who love the Book whose story it gives. We shall give a few extracts, to show the general nature of its contents; and it is our earnest desire that the publication of this highly interesting and instructive volume may be the means of strengthening more and more in our hearts a love for the Holy Scriptures, stirring up feelings of gratitude in their breasts for so inestimable a treasure, and by making them more sensible of the obligations under which they lie to others for so valuable a possession, to induce them to strive to impart to millions still destitute of the privileges and blessings they so abundantly enjoy.

Our first extract shall be from the commencement of the work. "In almost all the houses in England may now be found the Book—the oldest and most wonderful book in all the world. This Book, the Bible, is a Revelation from God. The word revelation means the rolling back of a veil; so the Bible unveils to man what otherwise he could not know of the Great God of man, and of Jesus Christ, who is

God and man in one person for ever.' God caused holy men to write on those subjects that which he taught them; and being written, he meant it to be known throughout all the world, by every human creature. But this Book did not always lie upon the most every table in England. It is only within the last fifty years that it entered into the minds of some good men to help each other to print and send this Holy Bible forth to every land, and into every family; and when they had united themselves for this great work, they were called The British and Foreign Bible Society. This Bible Society has a history, and they wish their history written for those who were not born when their Society arose. They are in this year, 1853, celebrating their Jubilee—a year of public gladness and rejoicing over the work already done, and a year in which they wish to ask their young friends to help them to do very much more. Before, however, we begin to tell you the story of the Bible Society, which is a true and glorious tale, that will certainly stir all the young hearts that listen to it, we desire to work in its service, it will be necessary for you, that we go back for a while to the story of the Book itself, and that we inquire what that Book is, and whence it came. And now while we attempt to lead you to retrace the times of its beginning, we have one request to make, that you will read, with your Bible by your side, and turn to the references made to Scripture as they occur. You have not to search through 'houses of rolls,' and long piles of ancient manuscripts, to see if the story be true; for all the wonders that will be told you concern a small volume that can be held in the hand of the youngest child, capable of understanding it.

May the Holy spirit of God lead us reverently to seek, throughout our lives, 'all truth' contained in his high and holy word, which is able to make us 'wise' and 'wise unto salvation.'"

There is a fine passage from Dr. Caussen,

in which the compiler of the "Book and its Story" sums up the first part of the work, "the Bible in Past Ages," and which is to the following effect: "When one thinks that the Bible has been copied during thirty centuries, as no book of man ever was, or ever will be, that it was subjected to all the wandering experience of Israel, that it was transported seventy years into Babylon, that it had seen itself so often persecuted, or forgotten, or forbidden, or burned,—when one thinks that it has had to traverse the first three centuries of Pagan persecutions, when persons found in possession of the Holy books were thrown to the wild beasts,—next the seventh, eighth and ninth centuries, when false books and false legends were everywhere multiplied,—the tenth and eleventh centuries, when so few could read, even among princes,—the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when the use of the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue was punished with death, and when the books of the ancient fathers were mutilated,—then we can perceive how certain it is that, on the one hand, the providence of God has put forth its mighty power, causing the Church of the Jews to give us, in us the very book which records its ruin, which describes Jesus Christ;—and, on the other hand, the same providence has caused the Roman Church (which in particular forbade its people to read the sacred books, and gave them in the stead of the word of God the traditions of the middle ages) to transmit to us, in all their purity, those very scriptures, which say that Rome would be the seat of a terrible apostacy; which Thou shalt not make or bow down to them; of unknown tongues, Thou shalt not use them; of the cup, Drink ye all of it; of marriage, 'it is honorable in all'; and of the Virgin Mary, 'Woman, what have I to do with thee?'"

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." Matt: 24: 35. 'The grass withereth, the flowers