

duty manuscripts of the writers of antiquity, and whenever the original could not be removed, a faithful copy was transcribed and transmitted for his use. The Vatican, the old repository for *bulls* and *legends* for *superstition* and *forgeries* was daily replenished with more precious furniture; and such was the industry of Nicholas, that in a reign of eight years, he formed a library of five thousand volumes. To his munificence the Latin world was indebted for the versions of Xenophon, Diodorus, Polybius, Thucydides Herodotus, and Appian; of Strabo's Geography of the *Iliad*, of the most valuable works of Plato and Aristotle, of Ptolemy and Theophrastus, and of the Fathers of the Greek Church."

The honour of inventing printing has been claimed by the cities of Strasburg in France; of Harlem in Holland; and Mentz in Germany.

Laurentius of Harlem was one of the first printers if not the actual discoverer of the art of printing. It is related of him, "that walking in a wood near the city, he began at first to cut some letters on the end of a bee-hive, and putting some ink thereon; he, for fancy's sake, made an impression upon paper, and thus printed one or two lines. This having happily succeeded, he meditated greater things, for he invented a more glutinous ink because the common writing ink both sunk and spread. He then formed whole pages of wood with letters cut upon them.

"He next formed separate moveable wooden types, which were fastened together by thread. He next invented a printing press, which was shaped nearly like the common wine presses."

"The wooden types were soon changed for lead; and afterwards for metal."

The first works printed were the letters of the Alphabet, then the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

The first Bible was printed in Mentz in the year 1450.

In the infancy of printing, on one side of the page was expressed, the blank sides of the leaves were then pasted together, (as a witty writer has said) "that they might not by their awkwardness betray their deformity." Both vellum and paper were used to print on.

When an edition was intended to be curious, the first letter of the chapter was omitted; and the blank space was painted or illuminated at the option of the purchaser.

Printing was at first attributed to the *effects of magic*; and those who practised that art, were said to be directly under satanic influence. It was through this ignorance, that the ridiculous story of "*The Devil and Dr. Faustus*," was invented, and has been handed down to our own times.

This story owes its origin to the following fact:

Dr. John Faust, or Faustus, was a citizen of Mentz, and one of the earliest printers. In the year 1462, he in conjunction with his partner, Peter Schoeffer printed off a considerable number of copies of the bible, to imitate those which were commonly sold in Me. Faustus undertook the sale of them in Paris, where the art of printing was then unknown. At first he sold his copies for 500, and even as high as 600 crowns; which were the prices usually demanded by the scribes. He afterwards lowered his price to 60 crowns, which created universal astonishment; but when he produced copies as fast as they were wanted, and lowered the price to 30 crowns, all Paris was agitated. The uniformity of the copies increased the wonder; informations were given into the Police Office against him, as a *Magician*; his lodgings were searched; and a great number of copies being found, they were seized: the red ink with which they were embellished was said to be his blood; when it was

seriously adjudged that he was in league with the Devil; and if he had not fled, most probably he would have shared the fate of those whom ignorant and superstitious judges condemned in those days for witchcraft.

For about 21 years printing was confined to the Continent of Europe, but was introduced into England in the year 1464.

Some give the honor of its introduction into England to William Caxton, a mercer and a citizen of London. But according to a work published in 1664, by Richard Atkyns Esq., entitled "*The Original and Growth of Printing*," collected out of the history and records of this Kingdom," it was introduced by the influence of Thomas Bourchier the then Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bourchier it is said prevailed upon Henry VI., to dispatch Robert Tournour, one of the gentlemen of the wardrobe to Harlem with a view of making the English masters of the invention. Tournour took with him 1000 marks or 666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling, of which 300 marks or 200*l.* sterling proceeded from the treasury of the Archbishop. The remainder was furnished by the King. With this sum Tournour embarked for Holland. He proceeded first to Amsterdam and from thence to Harlem, where he was so far successful as to persuade Gersell, one of the Guttentburgh compositors, to carry off a set of letters, and embark with him for London. On their arrival, the Archbishop considering Oxford as a more convenient situation than London, sent Gersell there. Thus the art of printing appeared at the University of Oxford ten years sooner than at any other place in Europe, Harlem and Mentz excepted.

After this period, the knowledge of the art of printing made rapid progress through Europe. In 1499, it reached Constantinople. By the middle of the next century it extended to Africa and America. It was introduced into despotic Russia about the year 1560.

Before the year 1465, the uniform character was the old Gothic or German, whence our black letter was formed. But in that year an edition of Lactantius was printed in a kind of semi-Gothic character, nearly resembling the present Roman type. The Roman type was used at Rome first in 1466: from which place it received its name. It was soon brought to perfection in Italy.

The Black letter was used in England as late as the beginning of the 17th century.

The writer of this article possesses a Bible in black letter; which bears date 1624. This bible besides the text of the present authorized version, contains also, the church service in the same character, and likewise, the Lord's Prayer; the Ten Commandments; Athanasius's Creed; The Magnificat; The Te Deum; and the Song of the Three Children,—all in verse, and set to music.

The first essays in Greek were printed in 1465. These essays, however, were but a few sentences, and they, it is said, were very incorrect. In 1488 Homer's works were printed. In 1492, the Pentateuch was printed in Harlem, and before the close of the year 1487, all the remainder of the Old Testament was printed in that language.

Thus printing seems to have attained its state of perfection in the short space of about 15 years:—having in that time exhibited the most beautiful specimens of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

The first printed edition of any part of the Scriptures, in the English language, was the New Testament, printed at Harleburgh in the year 1526. The first bible printed in England was at London in 1539. It was in large folio, and is usually denominated the Great Bible.

When the art of printing was first known, it was the