

none were kept at the Depository until last year, when seven copies were sold. The translation is that authorized by the famous synod of Dort (1618-19), and is printed in Roman characters.

3rd., *Flemish*.—This language differs very little from the Dutch, both forming two dialects of one language, rather than two distinct ones. It is spoken in the northern and western provinces of Belgium; the prevailing language in the south-eastern provinces being Walloon, a Latin language nearly akin to French. The total Flemish-speaking population probably does not exceed 2,000,000, and the total number of Scriptures printed in that language by the Society is little more than 150,000 copies. It is not kept for sale in the Toronto Depository.

4th., *English*.—Of this language little need be said here. Gradually formed by the grafting of many words of French, Latin, and Celtic origin, upon an Anglo-Saxon stock, and spoken at first by a rude and warlike population of a few thousands in South-Britain, it is now the dominant language of a great empire, and is spoken in Great Britain, its colonies, and the United States, by a population of at least 80,000,000.

The Bible was first translated into English by Wickliffe about 1380, but our present version of the Scriptures is founded mainly upon that made by William Tyndale, nearly 350 years ago. Tyndale did not live to complete the work (he actually translated and published the New Testament in 1525, and in 1530 certain portions of the Old Testament), but the translation was finished by his friend, Miles Coverdale, and the whole Bible for the first time published in the English language in the year 1535. Coverdale's portion of the work was inferior in execution to that of Tyndale, and when Matthew's Bible (a revision of Tyndale's portion, with new translation of the remaining books) was published two years afterwards, it soon superseded that of Coverdale. Cranmer's Bible (1539) was a revision of Tyndale's; Taverner's (same year) was based on Matthew's. In 1557 appeared the Geneva Bible, a translation by several English divines who had fled to that city from the persecutions of the bloody Mary. This edition was the first printed in Roman letters (all the previous translations being in Old English type), and was also the first divided into verses. In 1568 appeared the Bishops' Bible, which was a revision of former translations by eight bishops under the superintendence of Archbishop Parker; and in 1610, the Douay Bible (so called because printed at Douay in France), a translation from the Vulgate by Roman Catholic exiles. The latter has ever since been the standard Roman Catholic version.

Our present authorized version was undertaken with the sanction of James I., and was made by forty-seven eminent scholars, appointed by the king. The work was finished in three years (1607-1610), and, without any steps being taken to gain for it a preference, it quickly gained the foremost place; in the course of forty years all other versions had quietly succumbed to it. It became, and has ever since remained, the *English Bible*.

The B. & F. Bible Society, though not forgetting the needs of other nations, has naturally issued English Bibles in vastly greater numbers than of any other tongue, the number reported up to last year, being 34,470,000. The issues of English Scriptures by the U. C. Bible Society, since its commencement, may be set down in round numbers at 750,000.

We give the Lord's Prayer in each of the above-mentioned languages, for comparison.

#### GERMAN.

Unser Vater in dem Himmel, Dein Name werde geheiligt. Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geschehe auf Erden, wie im Himmel. Unser täglich Brod gib uns heute. Und vergib uns unsere Schulden, wie wir unsern Schuldigern vergeben. Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Uebel. Denn dein ist das Reich, und die Kraft, und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.