

Northern Messenger

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A Slight Increase.

The 'Northern Messenger' readers will readily understand how it comes that the rate on this paper has had to be increased from thirty cents to forty cents per annum. It has been well known that the rate of the 'Northern Messenger' was lower than that of any other weekly paper of this class published in the world, and at forty cents a year it still is, so far as we know, the lowest price charged by any publisher for such a paper. Our subscribers have noted with pleasure that during the year we have very frequently given them a sixteen-page paper instead of a twelve-page paper. They have also noted with even greater satisfaction the marked improvement in the quality of the paper used, and the consequent improvement in the printing of letter press and illustrations. These improvements have not been brought about without a very large outlay, and this large outlay, added to the extra cost in these days of labor and production, not only warrants a slight increase in price, but necessitates it. This increase of price, however, applies only in the case of individual subscriptions, the club rates standing practically as before, in some cases being even a little more advantageous to the agent or club raiser, and those subscribers who get up clubs for mutual reduction of rates. In clubs of three or more, at forty cents each, we allow 50 percent—that is, half the subscription rate—on bona-fide new subscriptions; and 33 1-3 percent—or one-third—off renewals. This gives the agent or club raiser a very good return for any effort he may make, and many of our young readers will find it to their advantage to go among their acquaintances and secure subscriptions for the 'Messenger.' We hope that many more of our individual subscribers will take advantage of the club rates by securing subscriptions of friends to send with their own.

PRIZES AND PROFITS.

The special announcements made in this issue will interest our older readers as well as the younger ones, and we hope that two or three in each district will enter for the competition for the prizes, which are very desirable ones, while even in the event of missing the prize, the commissions will prove in themselves very good additions to anyone's income—would, indeed, represent a very good salary to anyone devoting his whole time to securing subscriptions.

Those who make an early start will undoubtedly have the best chance of the prizes.

The Good Merchant of Lyons,

I want to tell you about the origin of what may almost be called the first Bible Society. At any rate you shall hear how the Scriptures were first translated from the ancient tongues into a language of ordinary everyday life, and how copies of these Bibles were distributed among the people, so that they might read and know the Word of God.

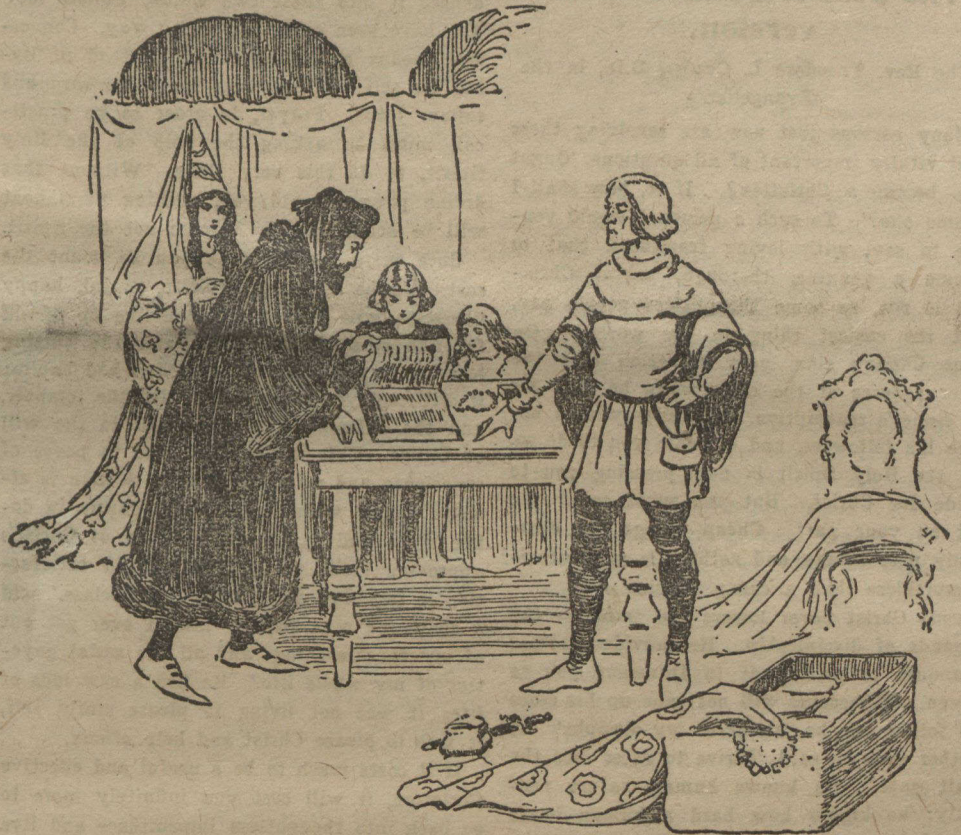
You probably know a picture which shows Queen Victoria as a young sovereign presenting a copy of the Bible to an African chief,

in answer to the question which he is supposed to have asked, 'What is the secret of England's greatness?' Although it is not a fact that a chief did actually come to England himself and ask the Queen personally that question, yet a chief once wrote it in a letter to Her late Majesty and the Queen did send him a Bible as an answer, so that the picture represents a real truth.

Now, at the recent Centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, I expect you heard that to-day, at least some part of the Scriptures is to be found in no fewer than 350 languages, but seven hundred years ago there was no nation in Europe that had the Bible in its own tongue. Printing had not yet been invented and the few copies of the Scriptures that existed were in Latin, a language that the common people could not under-

fit to die, should he be called away suddenly like his friend. He obtained real comfort from the writings of some of the early Fathers—those earnest Christian men who lived soon after the Apostles.

In their books they quoted many passages from the Scriptures, and it was these texts that helped Peter out of his difficulty and perplexity. He made up his mind that he would secure a Bible, and being rich, he was at last able to buy a copy. His learning enabled him to read the Latin language. The more he read the more peace and comfort did he experience, and his one desire was that others of his countrymen might know the truths which he had learnt. He visited the people in the homes and told them of the Lord Jesus Christ dying for sinners and often held little meetings in the woods where he read



AFTER SHOWING THEM TRINKETS AND INTRODUCING THE SUBJECT OF THE GOSPEL THEY WOULD PRODUCE THEIR NEW TESTAMENT.

stand. Even if they could have read that language it would have been useless, for the Bibles were in libraries to which ordinary people were not admitted. This was a sad state of affairs and it was made worse by many of the priests through whom the people obtained all they knew of religious truth, teaching false and superstitious doctrines very different from the real Gospel as found in the Word of God.

Well, in the twelfth century, there lived at Lyons, in France, a wealthy merchant named Peter. He was an upright man, fair and kind, had many friends and attended to his religious observances pretty regularly. But one evening while he was talking with a friend, this friend fell suddenly to the ground and on being taken up was found to be dead. The sad and solemn event made a great impression on Peter, who began to wonder if he was

from his Bible to the people, translating as he went along.

But from the moment that Peter realized what a grand book the Bible was, his great wish was that it should be translated into the language which the people spoke, and so as soon as he could he made arrangements for this to be done. Some think he translated the Bible himself, while others believe he paid learned men to do it for him. But that does not matter very much. By expending a great deal of time and money, Peter at last had the Bible in his own native tongue.

One copy, however, was not of very much use, and as I have told you, printing was unknown at that time. But Peter was not a man to let difficulties overcome him. He collected a number of men who could write well and set them to work making copies of the