

stances they wrote ; the particular design they had in writing ; the order of the books, not the order in which they appear in our Bibles, but the order in which they were written and the relative place which each holds in the general scheme of revelation. Information on these points can generally be obtained from the " Introductions " to the various books which are printed in some editions of the Bible. With these preliminary acquirements we will be prepared for matters of detail pertaining to the contents of the sacred volume.

On opening the Bible you perceive that the various books are divided into *chapters and verses*. This arrangement is entirely arbitrary, and of comparatively recent date. The division into chapters was made by Cardinal Hugo, about the middle of the 13th century, to facilitate reference to a Latin Concordance which he was preparing. In 1661, Athias, a Jew of Amsterdam, in his edition of the old Testament, divided the chapters of Hugo into verses, as we now have them. The New Testament was arranged in a similar manner by an English printer named Robert Stephens, in 1551, about sixty years before our present version was published. These divisions were adopted by the English translators, and have continued to the present time.

These artificial divisions are useful for reference in comparing one part of the Bible with another ; but in many instances they have been made in so careless a manner as to obscure the sense. A few passages will make this plain :

Gen. 2 : 1-3 is separated from Gen. 1.

" 15 : 1 " " 14.

Acts 22 : 1 " Acts 21.

2 Cor. 7 : 1 " 2 Cor. 6.

Heb. 12 : 1-2 " Heb. 11.

A similar difficulty is experienced in consequence of the arbitrary division of verses. Let us note one or two examples :

Psalms 98th, verse 8, separated from verse 7.

Luke 2 " 78, " " 77.

In trying to avoid errors arising from these arbitrary divisions, a " Paragraph Bible," or at least one in which the natural divisions are marked by a paragraph, thus : ¶, will be found very serviceable. (*) But where this cannot be obtained, let the reader pay

(*) Paragraph Bibles can be obtained through the Bible Society. Price, in cloth binding, \$1.25.