

The Bible Union.

We make the following extracts from an article under the above heading in the Bible Union Department of the N. Y. Chronicle.

"The Bible Union" is one of the "signs of the times," much more so, than many which are supposed to be quite unmistakable and certain.

Revision of the Common Version.—It should be known and distinctly understood by all, that the Bible Union have no thought or intention of altering or amending God's word.

Nor, is it their intention to destroy the common version—to break up or impair the beauties and excellencies of the rendering and language of our very excellent English translation of God's word.

More than this, whatever is regarded by the best scholars as doubtful will also remain. These translators will, in no case, for one doubtful translation give another equally doubtful.

Scholarship and Means.—Whatever may have been thought or said on this subject, it is now very generally considered that we have, in addition to all the advantages to be derived from the most critical and profound research of two hundred and fifty years, a more extensive biblical apparatus, a more critical and thorough knowledge of the languages in which the Bible was first written, and a better scholarship than was ever employed in the translation of the Bible.

Like every other great reform, the Revision of the common version of the Bible has had to go forward in darkness—her pathway lighted up alone by the promise and providence of God.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

REVIEW.

The Family Bible, with Brief Notes and Instructions, by Rev. Justin Edwards, D. D., and Prof. E. P. Barrows, published by the American Tract Society.

The Notes and Instructions on the New Testament, and on the Old to Psalm 119th, were written by Dr. Edwards. When this eminent servant of Christ had proceeded thus far, his valuable labours on earth were terminated by his removal to a higher and happier state.

"The whole" is said in the Society's Annual Report, 1857, "to have been carefully examined in the proof-sheets by members of the Publishing Committee, and sanctioned with entire unanimity."

The former of these authors is extensively and favourably known as an able and successful advocate of Sabbath Observance, and of the Temperance Reform. He was also active in establishing and fostering the American Tract Society. Indeed he was emphatically "ready to every good work."

his beneficent life were principally devoted to the preparation of this brief popular Commentary.

I have consecutively read about half of his portion of it, in connexion with the perusal of the sacred text. It is not to be expected that one who attentively examines the Scriptures, with an independent mind, will exactly agree with any expositor in his view of the import of every passage.

While some persons err by implicitly adopting the opinions of commentators, others fall into the opposite extreme of regarding all explanatory notes as superfluous. With regard to matters of faith and practice every man should, after prayerful examination of the Scriptures, decide for himself as to their import.

To persons whose attainments qualify them to profit by critical and elaborate commentaries, these may be highly serviceable. There are, however, many people who are liable to be rather perplexed than edified, in some instances, by them.

The text of the Common Version is printed by itself, without any interpolations. The valuable tables of contents prefixed to the Chapters by the Translators, are retained. The References and Marginal Readings of the Polyglot Bible are given, as are also the chronological dates.

Where it has been deemed requisite to make any remark with reference to the original, this has been done cautiously, without any parade of learning, or any censorious reflections on the Translators. For instance, on Exodus iii. 22. Dr. Edwards comments as follows:—"Borrow; the word rendered borrow, means also to request or demand, not expecting to make any return."

The Notes are generally quite brief. There are not usually any appended to texts which obviously require no explanation, nor to such as are peculiarly obscure, and concerning which fruitless conjectures have been sometimes offered. The Instructions are generally judicious and edifying reflections, founded on the passages to which they are annexed.

In my opinion this Family Bible may be very profitably used by heads of families in their daily devotions. Such a portion of Scripture may be read as time and circumstances render expedient. The perusal of the Notes will, to most persons, afford aid in the understanding of it; and the Instructions, which are truly evangelical and spiritual, are adapted to suggest profitable reflections on the sacred text, and to quicken the mind in devotional exercises.

As this Work is published for the general good, without any view to pecuniary advantage, it is placed within the reach of the mass of the people, being put at two dollars in cloth, and copies in superior binding at three.

That it may be rendered, by the divine blessing, extensively useful, is the earnest desire of the reader's well-wisher.

Aylesford, Dec. 23rd, 1857.

P.S. "The Family Bible, with Brief Notes," &c., may be had of Mr. N. P. Kemp, 28 Cornhill, Boston.

For the Christian Messenger.

Horton Academy.

The Half-yearly Examination at Horton Academy took place on Friday, the 14th inst., in the presence of a respectable assembly of the parents of the pupils, and other friends of the Institution. Classes in English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, and Latin were examined.

The respected agent of Acadia College, Rev. A. D. Thomson, gave an impressive address. The closing prayer and benediction, by the Rev. S. W. DeBlois, A. M.

We hope to hear of an enlarged attendance at the commencement of next Term.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination at Digby. Fatal Accident, &c.

[We insert the whole of the following letter, notwithstanding an account of the Ordination at Digby was given in our last, as the copying requested at the end would be imperfect were we to omit any part.—Ed. C. M.]

DEAR BROTHER,

I have much pleasure in announcing to the denomination through your columns the Ordination of our brother A. H. Munro, to the pastoral office in the churches of Digby and Digby Joggins.

A council of Ministers, previously invited, met a large congregation on Wednesday, the 9th inst., in the Meeting-house on Allison Hill. After hearing an excellent sermon from the candidate, founded on Matt. xxvi. 23, together with a relation of his christian experience, call to the ministry, and doctrinal views, which were of a most satisfactory character, the council agreed to proceed with the Ordination on the next day.

I am very happy to add that, there is evidently a growing interest in the things of religion among the people. Members of the Churches are quickened, many appear thoughtful, and some, who a short time since appeared to be far from God are now, it is hoped, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

A shade of gloom has recently been cast over this community, occasioned by the death of no fewer than seven persons belonging to Lower Granville, who left Digby on the evening of the 24th for their homes, in a boat. They passed to about two-thirds of the distance across the basin, when the boat unfortunately upset, and they all perished.

Tenderness for the bereaved (among whom there are some valued friends), disposes one to forbear adverting to particulars, while regard for the general good compels me to ask the startling question, "Who slew all these?"

A requisition from the more influential part of the town-dwellers of Digby, has been handed to the Sheriff, requesting him to call a meeting, the object of which it is understood will be to adopt measures for the more stringently carrying into effect the law regulating the Liquor-traffic.

Yours, &c. R. W. CUMMINGHAM. Rose Cottage, Dec. 28, 1857.

[Christian Visitor please copy.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MR. EBENEZER SPROULE, JUNR.

Died, at Lynn, Mass., after only a few days illness, Mr. Ebenezer Sproule, Junr., in the 20th year of his age.

The subject of this brief Memoir was the son of the late Mr. William Sproule, of Litchfield, in the Township of Granville, N. S., where his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary Sproule, still resides. When a boy, though of steady and industrious habits, possessed of an amiable disposition and ready in the acquirement of his Sabbath-school lessons and other useful knowledge; he did not manifest any signs of deep seriousness relative to the interests of his soul until nearly three years ago, when the Almighty was graciously pleased to pour out his Spirit to revive the hopes of his people, and add to this Church a number of such as we trust shall be saved from the wrath to come.

He chose the occupation of "doing business on great waters," and while he saw the wonders of Creation and Providence in the deep, he also saw there the wonders of God's grace. When taken with the sickness which terminated his earthly existence he was on a voyage to Lynn, Mass., where he took a severe cold which ended in inflammation of the bowels.

A funeral sermon was preached last Sabbath by the Pastor of this Church, from Numbers xxiii. and part of the 10th verse.—"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

My prayer to God is that all who put on Christ by profession about the time our dear young departed brother renounced the world may be also kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation and their last end may be as peaceful.—Com. by Rev. J. Spencer. Granville, Dec. 19th, 1857.

MISS OLIVIA FITCH.

Died, at Onslow, Dec. 13th, '57, Miss Olivia Fitch, aged 86 years, daughter of Ebenezer Fitch, Esq., of Chester, deceased.

Miss F. professed to be converted under what was then called "New light" preaching. With a peculiarly nervous constitution she endured a great deal of bodily affliction, nevertheless she had a hope in Christ, which was the only source to her of comfort. The conversation which she most loved was religious conversation, and those most acquainted with her religious exercises, can bear testimony to the delight which she experienced, when informed of the revival of religion in any place, and the conversion of sinners to God.

MRS. HANNAH MUNRO.

Also.—At 12 o'clock the same night, her sister, Mrs. Hannah Munro, widow of the late Rev. James Munro, aged 80 years.

Mrs. M. experienced religion in Chester, and was baptized by Rev. Joseph Dimock. On her removal to this place she united with the Baptist Church in Onslow, of which she continued a member until called to join the company above, which, while here, she contemplated as containing many whom she should recognize as her once loved associates.

Her confidence in her Saviour was unshaken, and with firm step she seemed to enter the margin of the valley of death, and as we have reason to believe, arrived victorious beyond the reach of sorrow.

The great desire of these sisters while in life, was that they might not die long apart; sixteen hours only divided them, and they lie in the same grave, to await the resurrection of the just.—Communicated by the Rev. D. W. C. Dimock.