

CHRISTIAN VISITOR-EXTRA.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to Religious and General Intelligence.

REVDS I. E. BILL & R. THOMPSON,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—St. Paul.

EDITORS

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1852.

TO OUR READERS.

We call the attention of our readers to the following correspondence, reserving our comments for another week:

SAINT-JOHN, N. B., Oct. 20th, 1852.

To DR. MACLAY.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Permit us on the eve of your departure, to express in a few words our heartfelt gratitude to the Giver of all good for his having guided your footsteps once more to this part of his vineyard. Your visit to these Provinces in 1845, made a deep impression upon many minds, and endeared your name to the hearts of thousands. We were, therefore, quite prepared to hail your present visit with peculiar interest and delight.

Your private intercourse with ministers and people, and your public exhibitions of God's truth, have greatly comforted and edified the churches, and stimulated them to renewed diligence in the Lord's work.

If you find the Baptists of these Colonies carefully abstaining from adopting any measures, which would tend to rupture their Christian fellowship or disturb the harmonious working of their churches; we trust that we may, without boasting say, that you find them also adhering with unwavering fidelity to the self-evident principle that God's Book should be faithfully translated into the vernacular tongue of all nations, and be given by the Church pure and un-mutilated to all the sons of men. So that all may read in their tongue, all the utterances of God to man.

The last twenty-five years of your life have been devoted to the advocacy of this principle, and we greatly rejoice in the success which has attended your labors, both in the old and in the new world.

We should feel gratified, should your opportunities allow you, to present again to our minds the statements which you have made to the Churches in these Provinces, in commending the objects, which occasioned your visit to them at this time.

You have been the honored instrument of aiding largely in giving birth to the American and Foreign Bible Society, to the Bible Translation Society of England, and more recently to the Bible Union of America; and also in advancing these Institutions to their present state of commanding influence in the religious world. The name of ARCHIBALD MACLAY is indelibly written in the constitution and progress of these Societies, and as their history is read by the future generations, that name will appear illustrious in the light of their rising glory, and final triumphs.

The Baptists of these Provinces feel especially indebted to your disinterested labors in behalf of Acadia College; and you will henceforth be remembered by us as one, who came to our aid at a time of pressing necessity; and whose successful exertions have nobly contributed towards placing that Institution of learning upon an immovable foundation; and we take this opportunity of tendering to you our cordial thanks for your valuable services in a cause, so dear to all, and so closely identified with the prosperity of our Churches.

We cannot but deeply regret that you are so soon to leave us: but we can assure you that you will be followed by the sincere affection of many Christian hearts, who will not fail to offer their fervent prayers for your safe return to your family, and that the Divine benediction may continue to rest upon your efforts in the Redeemer's cause, until you shall hear the plaudits from His own gracious lips, "Well done good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

Yours, affectionately in the truth,
SAMUEL ROBINSON, Pastor of Brussels-St. Ch.
EDWIN CLAY, Pastor of the Carleton Church.
E. N. HARRIS, Seaman's Chaplain.
I. E. BILL, Pastor of the Germain-St. Church.
B. SCOTT, Pastor of the Portland Church.
ROBERT THOMPSON, M. A., Editor of the Christian Visitor.

J. R. FITCH, M. D.
J. F. MARSTERS.
CHARLES H. HAY.
WILLIAM THORP.
M. FRANCIS.
P. GRAVES.
G. BANCOFF.
EDWARD J. BERTANA.
A. McSEELY.
THOMAS MCHENRY.
ISAIAH WALLACE.
CHRISTOPHER BURNETT.
N. S. C. MALL.
ZEBULON PETTREY.
J. BEAGLEY.
S. PRINSMAN.
HENRY BLEAKSLEE.
J. P. MARSTERS.
GEO. A. GARRISON.
JOHN CHALONER.
ISRAEL FELLOWS.
C. D. EVERETT.
JOHN BERRYMAN.
JOSEPH REED.
EDWARD HILLYER DUVAL.

New-York, Nov. 10, 1852.

BELOVED FRIENDS:

It affords me inexpressible gratification to remember the cordial reception and kind treatment I have received from the friends of the Bible in the Provinces, and to read in your letter another expression of the same regard. It is gratifying, not only on account of the unfeigned friendship which has been shown for me personally, but much more on account of the interest and godly devotion manifested in the Bible cause, which I have been laboring to promote for many years.

You have referred in your letter to the effort, recently made to complete the endowment of Acadia College. You are aware I was embarrassed, on the one hand, by a strong desire for its success, and on the other, by a reluctance to engage in it, even for a brief period, to the exclusion of the main object of my visit to your Provinces. But in view of the jeopardy in which the College was placed, and of the unanimity with which you requested me to present the subject to the Churches, as expressed in the resolutions of the Western Association at Prince William, and subsequently at the convention at Sackville, I could no longer hesitate. It is, however, but just to say, that whatever aid I may have been enabled to render the Institution, is attributable to the manner in which the appeal in its behalf was responded to by ministers and churches, and to the personal exertions of Rev. John Francis, who accompanied me in Cumberland and Colchester Counties, Nova Scotia, and of Rev. Isaiah Wallace, who performed the same service in Westmoreland and Albert Counties, New Brunswick. The sum subscribed in four weeks amounted to \$16,622, and the further sum of \$2,000 may be considered as in part secured.

Your contributions in aid of the cause of the Bible Union, during the three months I was in the Provinces, amount to \$4,797.97.

I thank you for the privilege of addressing you in behalf of that cause furnished by this occasion. And I shall improve the opportunity with deeper interest, and more at large, on account of its being, in all human probability, the last one that I shall ever enjoy. The Lord has graciously spared my life, and blessed me with health, so that I have been enabled to labor cheerfully and without interruption in this delightful work, beyond the ordinary period allotted to man; but I am admonished that my days are now almost numbered. It is scarcely probable that I shall be able to visit the churches of the Provinces before I go hence. I certainly cannot calculate on such another privilege, therefore it affords me the greater pleasure to have the opportunity of presenting to your minds the importance and blessedness of giving to all nations the precious word of God in their own tongue without human addition, diminution, or concealment.

My own heart was deeply interested in the missionary cause at a very early period of my life, and had the hand of Divine Providence opened the way, I should have become a missionary to the heathen. But I was not permitted to labor in that field; yet I have always felt that next to the preaching of Christ crucified to nations benighted, was the work of diffusing the light

of divine truth by the distribution of God's holy word faithfully translated into all languages. And now that I am approaching the time of my departure, the wants of the church and the world, with their entire dependence upon the word of God for sanctification and redemption, seem to magnify the importance of this work greatly beyond any thing that has ever appeared to me before.

I shall be most happy, if it is possible for me to impart to you such views of the claims of this cause as shall secure your hearty and never ceasing co-operation.

I have been laboring, as you know, in connection with the American Bible Union, as the agent of that Institution, because it appears to me best adapted by the principles of its constitution, and the most likely from its aims and objects, to promote the work of faithful translations and the untrammelled distribution of the pure word in all languages. The British and Foreign Bible Society, and the American Bible Society adopt the principle of conforming their versions in other tongues to the common English version, at least so far that all denominations can use them without embarrassment. The American and Foreign Bible Society proceed now upon the principle of conforming their versions to the original Hebrew and Greek, in languages where no versions previously exist; while in every other country where versions have been already made by other hands, they adopt the existing versions.

This principle is plainly stated in the official documents of the Society. In the Annual Report for 1850, we find the following Resolutions, passed at the Anniversary meeting for that year:

"Resolved, That the Society in its issues and circulation of the English Scriptures be restricted to the commonly received version without note or comment."

"Whereas, by the Constitution of this Society, its object is 'to aid in the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all lands, therefore,

"Resolved, That it is not the province and duty of the American and Foreign Bible Society to attempt on their own part, or to procure from others, a revision of the commonly received English version of the Sacred Scriptures."

And in the Report of 1852, we find the restrictive Resolution of 1838, in favor of circulating the received English Version "until otherwise directed by the Society," so interpreted as to include the received version in all other languages, in which the Society might ever be called to circulate the Scriptures. On this point the Report says:—"There was marked out a clear line of discrimination between those fields where the Scriptures were then circulated, and those where they were not. In the latter the most sedulous care was to be exercised by the Board of Managers, to patronize such versions only into the languages of the heathen, as have been or may be faithfully made, and are approved by competent examiners:—while in the former, the English language being specified as the representative of all similar cases—the commonly received version was to be used until otherwise directed by the Society."

The Society, in this exposition of its own constitutional powers, declares that the work of translation and revision of the Scriptures in English does not come within its legitimate "province"; its exclusive "duty" in respect to the Scriptures in that language being confined to "circulation." It is also declared that in respect to the principle involved, and the application of that principle to other languages, the English was specified as the "representative of all similar cases." From which it follows that the Society, acting within its "province and duty," cannot translate or revise the Scriptures in any language where there is already a "received version"; but is bound to circulate the commonly received version, however faulty it may be until a better one shall have been prepared by other hands, apart from and independent of the American

and Foreign Bible Society, and until that version shall have been commonly received.

Accordingly we find them circulating the Catholic version of De Lacy among the French in Canada, and thereby upholding the corruptions of that Apostate Church. But the Bible Union is founded on the principle of giving the exact meaning of the inspired text to all men by translating that meaning into corresponding words and phrases in all the various languages of the nations, whether it be by making new translations or by revising those already made.

And as the principles and policy of other Bible Societies, furnish no guarantee for faithful translations into any languages where there are none at present, or where those only which are unfaithful exist, it seemed not only proper, but exceedingly important, that such an institution as the Bible Union should be confined by the limitations of its constitution to no narrower field than that of the whole world; leaving each and every part to be occupied as its own comparative claims, and the favoring providence of God should direct.

In determining what portion of the great field demanded the first efforts of the Bible Union, reference has been had to the labors of other Societies, so that, although the wants of the heathen, who have no bible, may be considered more imperious, and their supply more indispensable than the necessity of a corrected version, where one already exists, yet as other societies are supplying versions to the heathen as fast as missionaries are sent forth to give them circulation, it has seemed to be the immediate duty of the Bible Union to procure a revision of some versions, which, though greatly needing correction, have been hitherto neglected.

It must be obvious to all who reflect candidly upon the subject, that it is not only important that new translations of the Divine word should be made faithful and plain, but that existing versions, which contain obvious errors that can be removed, should be corrected; in order that the Bible wherever it is circulated, as the word of God, may be as free as possible from all admixture of human error.

No disadvantage, attendant on a change in the translation, can justify the retention of error. This would be true if the Holy Scriptures were designed only for the perusal of a single individual, as it would be important for that individual to know with clearness and certainty just what God had revealed for his salvation. But no version of the Living Oracles received and read by the people, can be considered with reference to a single individual, and the importance of accuracy and purity in every translation must be proportioned to the numbers of those who use it, and the influence which it exerts in the formation of other versions.

In this view, our attention has been turned first to the commonly received English version, made by order of King James, now more than two hundred years ago. We find this version in a language the most influential, and spoken in a territory the most extended. Besides the natural increase, a stream of emigration, as resistless as that tide which pours its waters upon the shores of your Provinces, is hourly adding to the number of those who use this language upon this continent. While missionary zeal is laboring to accomplish the difficult task of procuring an acceptable version of the scriptures in China, thousands of the Chinese have landed upon our shores, whence they will carry back to their own land, and diffuse among their countrymen, a knowledge of our language.

This subject has not escaped the observation of those far-seeing men whose wisdom and talents have secured for them a distinguished position in the highest legislative Council of the American Union. At the commencement of the present year, I received a letter from the Hon. Wm. Gwin,

a representative in the Senate of the United States from the State of California, in which he refers to "our commerce with the nations of the Pacific and Asia, its rapid growth since the discovery of the gold of California, and its vast future prospects." Passing from this topic he says "we shall endeavor, probably with success, immediately to establish a line of steamers between San Francisco and China, and there are now in California, about six or seven thousand Chinese, the pioneer corps of larger numbers, allured by the love of gain, but thereby brought in contact with and under the influence of our superior civilization and benign religion, the knowledge of which they may materially aid in diffusing." His prediction has been amply verified, and these six or seven thousand were only the "pioneer corps." We find, "according to statistics, compiled with great care and labor," and of the accuracy of which there can be no doubt, that the total number of Chinese in California, August 6, 1852, was 27,058. The average number who arrive each month is 4,500, so that for the present year we have the following result:

Chinese in California August 1852	27,059
Increase during the remainder of 1852	20,000
Estimated number of deaths	47,058
Chinese in California on 31st December 1852	46,558

One of our Baptist Missionaries in China, Rev. J. L. Shuck, writes, "the churches have been so slow to send missionaries to the heathen, that Providence is sending the heathen to the churches."

In former years Ireland was the country to which we looked as furnishing the principal emigration to America. A great change has taken place in this respect, and the number of those who now emigrate from the continent of Europe, regarded in its influence in extending the knowledge and sway of the English language, arrests attention. During six months of the present year there arrived at the port of New York alone more than eighty-four thousand emigrants from Germany.

"Perhaps the most surprising philological fact of the present time is the wonderful spread of the English speech, not merely by the extension of the power of Great Britain and of the United States, by which the English is carried to every quarter of the globe, and made the legal, scholastic, and polite language of vast territories, but by the impulse which the labors of a few eminent scholars in France, Germany, and the northern European nations have given to the study of English classical authors in their own tongue. Throughout Germany an immense impulse has also been given to this study by the emigration to the United States. One may travel thousands of miles and find no market town, however small, in which are not temptingly displayed at the windows of the little book shops, all sorts of elementary works to assist the emigrant in the acquirement of some few necessary phrases of the American language."

The increasing importance of the English language is seen in the acquisitions of territory on the part of those who speak it.

Nothing is more striking than the manner in which Great Britain has gone on, generation after generation, in making important acquisitions of territory in different parts of the globe.

Whatever polity may have prevailed, whether that of Kings or Commons, no change has taken place in this respect. It is no part of our object to refer to the causes assigned for these acquisitions, or to the policy by which they have been dictated. But the fact we are considering is very clearly exhibited in the following tabular statement.

COLONIES.	DATE OF ACQUISITION; AND IN WHAT MANNER.	POPULATION.
Lower Canada	Capitulation, Sept. 18, 1763	1,000,000
Upper do.	Capitulation, Sept. 8, 1760	1,000,000
New Brunswick	By Settlement	1632
Nova Scotia	By Settlement	1605
Cape Breton	By Settlement	1703
Prince Edward's Island	By Settlement	1763
Newfoundland	By Settlement	1479
Antigua	By Settlement	1632
Barbadoes	By Settlement	1605
Dominica	Ceded by France	1703
Grenada	Do do	1763
Jamaica	Capitulation	1655
Montserrat	Settlement	1632
Nevis	Do do	1628
St. Kitts	Do do	1603
St. Lucia	Capitulation, June 2, 1763	1763
St. Vincent	Ceded by France	1763
Tobago	Do do	1763
Tortola	Settlement	1666
Anguilla	Do do	1666
Trinidad	Capitulation, Feb. 18, 1763	1763