

From the New York Daily Herald, Oct. 8.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.

Speech of Dr. Achilli.

The new Version of the Scriptures—Addresses of Rev. Dr. Cone, Rev. O. B. Judd, Rev. Mr. Graves, and others.

The fourth annual meeting of the American Bible Union, which was organized about four years ago, in the language of its constitution: "to procure and circulate the most faithful versions of the Sacred Scriptures in all languages throughout the world," was commenced on Thursday morning in the Broom-street Baptist Church. There was a large attendance of those interested in the objects of the Convention, and there were delegates from all parts of the country. At the first session there were about four hundred delegates present, among whom were Hon. Joseph Taylor, of Philadelphia; Rev. James Challen, of do.; Charles Ferguson, Esq., of Baltimore; Rev. F. Remington, of Ohio; Prof. Wm. C. Duncan, of New Orleans; Rev. John L. Waller, LL.D., of Kentucky; Hon. U. F. Doubleday, of New York; Hon. Thomas Swaim, of New Jersey; Rev. Thomas Armitage, D. D., of New York; Rev. P. B. Spears, of Madison University; Rev. James Belcher, of Maine; James Edmund, Esq.

Before the Convention assembled a business meeting was held in the lecture room of the church, Rev. Dr. Cone presiding, and Rev. C. A. Buckbee officiating as Secretary. There were about two hundred delegates present. The proceedings were entirely of a business character, consisting of the election of officers and the appointment of Committees for the Convention.

PUBLIC MEETING.

After the regular organization of the Convention, which was called to order by the President about ten o'clock, soon after the adjournment of the business meeting, religious exercises were commenced with the reading of the Scriptures by Rev. D. T. Hill, of Carmel, N. Y., and singing by the Congregation of the 101st hymn. Prayer was then offered by Rev. A. C. Wheat, of Philadelphia. At the conclusion of these exercises Wm. Colgate, Esq., read an abstract of the Treasurer's report for the past year.

The President, Rev. Dr. Cone, then proceeded to deliver his address, of which the following is a synopsis:—

Brethren and friends of the Bible cause—In the gracious providence of our covenant God and Father in Christ Jesus, we enjoy the privilege of convening in this house, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the American Bible Union. It gives me pleasure to say that your Board of Managers have attended regularly to the business of the Union with unabating zeal and fidelity; not a single member has been removed by death; and harmony of action, increase of funds, and accessions of valuable friends are among the tokens for good vouchsafed to us by the God of the Bible. In revising the commonly received English version, the real point of controversy between us and anti-revisionists is the question whether *Baptizo* shall be translated or not. Settle that point on the side of truth; allow the real meaning of the word to appear in all its plainness and simplicity; and then no one but a Roman Catholic will object to the whole Bible being brought as near the original as possible. This was the great, in fact the only insuperable difficulty, in the Calcutta and the British and Foreign Bible Societies, with reference to the versions of Carey and Yates and their coadjutors. And this too was the identical stone of stumbling and rock of offence in the American Bible Society respecting the circulation of Judson's Burmese Bible. General terms were indeed used by these societies in the resolutions refusing aid to versions made by Baptist Missionaries, but when the pith of the matter was exposed, in such instance it was acknowledged that if *baptizo* and its cognates were left untranslated, all opponents would be satisfied. What a melancholy picture does this furnish of the depravity of our race—as manifested even among those who profess to bow willingly and cheerfully to the authority of Zion's King—that rather than have his first injunction to believers made plain to the common understanding, that he who reads may run in the pathway of obedience, they will adhere to versions of acknowledged inaccuracy, and hold up to obloquy and persecution those who desire to have God's truth freed from error and obscurity. God

has greatly encouraged us in our work. Let us therefore gird up the lions of our minds and be sober, hoping unto the end. We have difficulties to encounter; but they are trifling to those which befel Wyckliffe and Tyndale, and their compeers. We are not exposed to the wrath of kings and an established clergy; neither fines nor imprisonments, nor fire nor fagot, menace us. It is our happiness to dwell in the land of civil and religious liberty; and where Baptist principles prevail, that liberty can never be successfully assailed. We rejoice with our departed brother, Christopher Anderson, at the wonders accomplished through the instrumentality of the Scriptures in an English dress; but if the circulation of a version, with thousands of acknowledged inaccuracies has been followed by such glorious results, may we not look for greater things than these when the errors shall be corrected and the obscurities removed, and the pure and unadorned Word of the Lord shall run and have free course and be glorified in all the earth!

Wm. H. Wyckoff, of New York, Corresponding Secretary, read the report of the Board of Managers for the last year, of which we give the following abstract:—

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Union has enjoyed another year of unabated prosperity. Divine Providence has signally blessed all its plans and operations.

The report circulated by some of its opponents, that the Bible union has restricted itself to the revision of the English Scriptures, is entirely unfounded. No change whatever has been made by the Union or the Board. The subject has not even been before the Board. No variation, either in the object or general policy of the American Bible Union is necessary or advisable. None can be made without an alteration of the second article of the constitution, and the twentieth article provides against any alteration in the second without a unanimous vote and one year's previous notice. The Union therefore wishes, once for all, to place a quietus upon all ideas of compromise, as no compromise of its principles or policy is likely ever to take place.

The Union really interferes with no existing organization. No other claims to have entered the field of revision, and the Union does not circulate the commonly received versions in any language in this country or in Europe. It makes small appropriations for versions in heathen languages, but does not make the wants of the heathen one of its principal pleas for raising funds.

Another careful revision has taken place, and the gospels of Mathew and Mark have been printed separately. One thousand copies of the former have been received at the Bible Rooms and are now ready for distribution, and five hundred of the latter are expected to be ready in a few days.

According to contract, the incipient revision of the gospels and the Acts of the Apostles was to have been completed before this date, and the manuscripts are probably now in the hands of our agent in Paris.

The scholar mentioned in the first annual report as at the time in negotiation with the Union, has now been permanently engaged. His distinguished classical and theological attainments, and his celebrity as a philologist, qualify him to undertake any part of the general work; but his peculiar department of study, and his reputation as an author, especially associate him with the original language of the Old Testament, to which his attention is particularly directed.

Other distinguished scholars have been added to the corps of revisers of the New Testament, so that now they number names of distinction in seven different evangelical denominations. Several, whose contracts bound them to complete their parts before the present time, have applied for a year's extension, as the work is found to be more laborious than was at first anticipated. Others, whose contracts did not so positively limit them, have been under the necessity of taking more time than was at first anticipated. All seem to be more and more impressed with a consciousness of the vastness of the undertaking, and the necessity of the utmost fidelity and thoroughness.

One revision of Galatians has been received; one of Ephesians; and the manuscripts of First and Second Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, &c., have been partially examined by the Committee on Versions. The Epistles printed last year for the examination of scholars have been re-revised, and, with the addition of Revelation, are now passing through

the press to be again submitted for criticisms and suggestions. Four thousand copies are being printed, in order that friends who wish to purchase may have the opportunity.

The engagement upon the Old Testament before the New is completed increases the need of funds.

Deeply interesting letters from the Siamese Mission, and from its oldest living missionary, (now in this country and about to return,) appear under this department, accompanying a grant of another thousand dollars for the Sacred Scriptures in Siamese. It was the comparison between the Siamese New Testament and the common English version that disclosed to the present King of Siam the discrepancies between the two, and led him to declare that, if the English is correct, the missionaries had not given the truth to his countrymen.

The report presents a history of the circumstances through which the revision of the Italian Testament, made by Dr. Achilli for the American and Foreign Bible Society, has come into the possession of the American Bible Union. The Board has determined to print a small edition for the use of its revisers and the examination and criticism of scholars, and has made an appropriation for that object. The testimony to the scholarship of Dr. Achilli and his skill in the use of the Italian tongue, is of the most satisfactory character.

Two superior scholars are engaged by the Union in this revision of parts of the German New Testament, one of whom has a reputation as a biblical philologist not unknown in any country where Christian literature is cultivated.

The library has been enlarged by many valuable accessions. It is a choice collection of works of merit, contributing facilities for the work of Scripture translation and revision.

A comparison of the four years of the Union's history exhibits the increase of its receipts and subscriptions:—

Cash receipts first year,	\$5,595 50
" second year,	10,433 93
" third year,	16,527 73
" fourth year,	23,352 67
Unpaid instalments on life memberships and directorships, subscribed first year,	\$7,706 42
subscribed second year,	29,520 85
" third year,	61,746 00
" fourth year,	100,536 00

Vigorous and flourishing auxiliaries are springing up all over the country, such as the Philadelphia Bible Union, the New York Bible Union, the Cincinnati Bible Union, &c. Several of them already contribute very liberally to the funds. The Oliver Street Bible Union has given a thousand dollars the present year.

The Bible Translation Society, and the American Christian Bible Society, have aided liberally the present year, and more is expected from them in future.

The American Bible Union occupies a conspicuous position. The walls of the city have been searched with curious eyes; the towers have been counted; the bulwarks marked.

Incessant vigilance and circumspection are needed on the part of those who have its interests in charge. They must be humble and prayerful, and not lean to their own understanding, but make the God of the Bible their trust; look to Him for wisdom, and do nothing which will not please Him. Under the guiding hand and approving smile of the Author of Truth the Union must continue to prosper, and the results of its labors will be a version of the Sacred Scriptures in our own language, and similar version in others, the value and usefulness of which cannot be estimated by human powers of calculation.

Rev. O. B. Judd, of this city moved the adoption of the report in a few appropriate remarks. He paid the Board of Managers a high compliment for the manner in which they had performed the duties imposed upon them. In their efforts to procure a faithful revision of the Scriptures they never permitted themselves to be thwarted in their great purpose. They had been met by difficulties and obstacles which would have turned aside any other body of men; but they knew the importance of the work which they had to do, and they never swerved from any of its obligations. Those who were opposed to the desired revision endeavored to prevent it from being accomplished; all the religious newspapers east of the Alleghenies resisted the movement, and the only Baptist quarterly review, the *Christian Review*, has passed the crisis without publishing a syllable in relation

to it. The report, said the speaker, in conclusion, ought to be published; it is all that truth requires. Hence the efforts which have been made to suppress the movement of this Bible Union. The sentiments of this Union must be suppressed; the public must not read or talk of them; they must not say a word about "revision," because the moment that word is mentioned it commends itself to the common sense of the public. Therefore I am of opinion that this report should be printed and spread broadcast throughout the land; and there will be an effort, as there has been, to suppress and put down and gag in this and of civil and religious liberty those who have enlisted in this great movement. It is unworthy of the Protestant. The Catholic may oppress and persecute, and kill, as they have done, and prevent the freedom of speech, but what shall be thought of Protestants who attempt to follow in their footsteps.

When the speaker resumed his seat, Rev. Dr. Silas E. Shepard seconded the motion, which, after a few remarks from Rev. W. J. Loomis, was unanimously adopted.

The President then appointed the following committees, which were approved of by the Convention:—

On the Siamese Translation.—Revs. A. Wheat, of Philadelphia; C. Graves, of New York; J. H. Chandler, returned missionary from Siam; Wm. McCarthy, of Newport; Jas. Farquharson, of Williamsburg.

On the English Translation.—Rev. John L. Walter, of Louisville, Ky.; Rev. Prof. P. B. Spear, of Madison University, N. Y.; Hon. Joseph Taylor, of Philadelphia; Rev. Alonzo Wheelock, of New York; Joseph W. Burden, of Williamsburg.

On the Spanish Translation.—Revs. J. Newton Hill, of New York; F. Crowe, a returned missionary from Spanish America; Cyrus G. Allen, of Pennsylvania; S. Wilkins, of New York; John Seage, of Staten Island.

The Committee of Arrangements reported the hours of meeting for the Convention as follows:—Prayer meeting, 9 A. M.; morning session, from 10 A. M. till 12½ P. M.; afternoon session, from 3 to 5; evening session commences at 7½ o'clock.

The report was adopted, and the Convention adjourned till 3 o'clock, after receiving the benediction of the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at three o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President. The congregation then joined in singing the two first verses of the 288th hymn, beginning "My thoughts surmount these lower skies," after which prayer was offered by Rev. Elon Galusha, of Lockport, N. Y.

The President announced the following committees, in addition to those which he had appointed at the morning session:—

On the Italian Translation.—Revs. T. Armitage, of New York; Dr. Achilli, of Italy; John W. Sables, of Brooklyn; George R. Darrow, R. I.; Jeremiah B. Taylor, Esq., New York.

On the German Translation.—Revs. Aaron Jackson, of New York; James Belcher, of Maine; George Austin, M. D., Baltimore, Md.; Revs. S. S. Wheeler, of New York; Levi Meech, Conn.

Rev. Charles Graves, of Cassville, N. Y., addressed the meeting. He said—"God is our refuge and strength," has always been the language of the Christian soldier as he urged his way onward over the field of conflict. Jehovah has sent him forth to fight the battles of truth under circumstances where his motives and plans will be challenged and severely scrutinized. He is bound, as a reasonable being—yea, by the express instructions of his Commander—to give a reason of the hope he cherishes. Apparently he will fail. Is he to come before magistrates and governors? He is not even to depend on the usual preparation of counsel and thought, but on God, who will give him, in the awful crisis, when life, and soul, and all are at stake, a wisdom which his adversaries shall neither be able to gainsay nor resist. Does he appear before the world, proposing vast plans for the redemption of man, for the accomplishment of which he has no appropriate means, and, according to the wisdom of man, no adequate power? That man who never goes further than he can see will never go further in religion than to the borders of the Red Sea. My heart swells with a sweeter rapture, my feet stand firmer on the rock, when I examine the principles