

The Christian Visitor.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

REV. I. E. BILL, Editor and Proprietor. SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1857. VOL. X.—NO. 42

The Eighth Annual Report of the American Bible Union.

Advance sheets of this interesting report have been forwarded to our address, from which we make the following extracts.

REVISION OF THE ENGLISH OLD TESTAMENT.

While this preliminary labor upon the New Testament was in progress, Divine Providence opened the way for an engagement with the most eminent Hebrew scholar in the country, the Rev. Dr. Conant. A contract was made with him, embracing provisions by which the critical aid of other scholars, to any extent, may be made available in perfecting the work. The revision of Job, already published by the Union, with the philological notes, accompanying it, is the first complete result of this contract. Other parts of the Old Testament are in a state of considerable forwardness, and the Book of Genesis is very nearly ready for the press.

It would be an imputation upon the intelligence of those to whom this report is addressed, to suppose them ignorant of the numerous and well merited encomiums bestowed by scholars of all denominations upon the faithfulness, the classic beauty, the discriminating judgment, and refined taste, which characterize the translation already published. Let it suffice to say that, in the judgment of your Board, Dr. Conant has more than sustained his high reputation as a Christian philologist.

FINAL COMMITTEE.

As Dr. Conant is equally skilled in the Greek language, and has been for many years collecting resources for a thorough translation of the New Testament, your Board has solicited, from the first adoption of the plan of revision, to secure his services upon the Final Committee. To this he never consented till the month of April, in the present year. At the last anniversary, the Union authorized the Board to appoint that Committee at the expiration of three months. Successive numbers of the Quarterly have shown you the earnest and protracted efforts put forth for that purpose. But the difficulties were neither few nor small. In accordance with the original plan, and well understood purpose of the Union, none but scholars of acknowledged qualifications could be chosen. The highest order of talent, a life devoted to philological pursuits, thorough acquaintance with biblical literature, habits of close application and research, a discriminating judgment, and good taste, with a distinguished reputation for thoroughness, accuracy, and integrity, and also for success as authors, were ranked among these qualifications. No regard to denominational connection was allowed to intervene. The best qualified men were to be chosen wherever they could be found: it was no easy matter to find and to secure such men. Frequent meetings of the committee, diligent correspondence, and personal consultation with scholars, were requisite; and nearly seven months of the year had passed before the Board was prepared to make appointments. Four men were at length found, who are believed to possess the required qualifications. The names of three we are permitted to give to the public.

Rev. T. J. Conant, D.D., late Professor in Rochester University, New York.
Rev. H. B. Hackett, D.D., Professor in Newton Theological Seminary, Massachusetts.
Prof. Dr. E. Rodiger, Professor in the Royal University in Halle, Germany.
The fourth is equally eminent, but as he has not yet assumed all the responsibilities of the Committee, although he has agreed to aid them, as a scholar, in any way which they or the Board may wish, and is actually so employed by us at the present time, it is not deemed proper to announce his name.

These four men are familiar with the inspired originals of the Sacred Scriptures and with every modern language which is requisite to aid their investigation. Three of them are distinguished for the Saxon simplicity and beauty of their style. The reputation of all is equally high in Europe and in America, and their personal estimation in the republic of letters is such as will enable them to obtain the aid of any scholars whose services in criticism or investigation they may require.

It is regarded as a striking evidence of the confidence placed in the Bible Union, that Dr. Conant has been willing to relinquish the advantages of his honorable position in the University of Rochester, and to devote all his time and energies to our enterprise. The moral influence of such a step is decidedly beneficial. It strengthens our position with all who know his character and standing. As the step is taken with full knowledge of the history and condition of the Bible Union, it gives assurance to all, that the institution is regarded, not only as safe and permanent, but as prosecuting an object to which a scholar of the highest reputation may feel it an honor to devote his life. A similar impression is made by the alliance of such men as Drs. Hackett and Rodiger with the Final Committee. Individuals of note, who have hitherto viewed our success as problematical, now yield their incredulity. They doubt no more the successful accomplishment of the great objects which we contemplate. Our hope, however, is not in man, but in God who hath directed our steps.

In compliance with the expressed wish of the Union, we are seeking a fifth scholar to be associated with these. Should a sixth and seventh be found of equal qualifications, mutually acceptable to those already appointed,

and to the Board, there is nothing to prevent them from being added to the number. In the meanwhile, the work of the Final Committee is progressing, and no exertions will be spared to urge it forward with as much expedition as is consistent with thoroughness and faithfulness.

But it has been ascertained that many books of value are still requisite to complete the biblical apparatus for the ultimate revision. The greatness of the object in view precludes a doubt that the friends of the Union will furnish the necessary means to procure them.

SUCCESS GREATER THAN WAS ANTICIPATED.

It would not be proper to dismiss this part of our history without a distinct recognition of the blessing of God, and the guidance of heavenly wisdom. Few and feeble as we were at the commencement, a little one has become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. The Lord has hastened it in His time. The cry of those who once opposed us, was, "They are too few to succeed." Now we number nearly fourteen thousand life members, directors, and members in part.

It was frequently said:—"They act under excitement, and will commit the Union by adopting an immature and imperfect translation." It is now seen that our measures have been deliberate and judicious, and that our undertaking has steadily progressed toward what is acknowledged by all to be a most desirable and creditable consummation. Many foretold that we would not secure the cooperation of superior scholars, in the preliminary revision. Our publications have proved that we had scholars of great talents and acquisitions employed in it, and, were we at liberty, as we hope some day to be, to publish the entire list, it would be seen that the names would do honour to any enterprise.

Still the cry came from far and near, "Dr. Conant has been for many years preparing a thorough revision of the whole Bible, and he has collected materials and formed connections with other scholars, which will give him great advantages over the Bible Union." The Lord brought all these acquisitions to the Bible Union.

Then it was declared, that he had only made an engagement on the Old Testament, but would not associate himself with the plan of the New.

He is now a member of the Final Committee on the New Testament, and, as if to remove all possibility of further objections, he has resigned his professorship, and devoted himself entirely to the Bible Union.

Some were not yet satisfied. Dr. Hackett's reputation as a biblical philologist was so high, and the devotion of his life to those studies which most eminently qualify him as a reviser of the New Testament, was so well known, that many believed the work could not be thoroughly done without his cooperation, and they were confident that he would never be induced to co-operate in our undertaking.

Dr. Hackett is now upon the Final Committee. With these two is associated Dr. Rodiger, whose name is a tower of strength. His position and reputation in Continental Europe is such as will give him access to documents and facilities of research, which probably no other scholar of the age can command. He has already performed very valuable labor for the Bible Union, and is engaged in other still more valuable.

All solid objections to co-operation with the American Bible Union are now removed; and in congratulating each other upon the abounding grace and wisdom of Him who has watched over us and directed us, we may here "thank God and take courage."

NEWSPAPER DISCUSSION ON BIBLE REVISION.

Under this title we have collected, in forty one folio volumes, the articles which have appeared in newspapers upon the subject of revision, from the commencement of the controversy, in 1749, till the present date. We know of nothing that has been published in that form in relation to our enterprise, within that period, either in Great Britain or America, that can not be found in this valuable collection. Each slip of such articles is cut from the columns, and with the name of the paper, the editorial heading, and date, is pasted in the book in double columns, and each volume is carefully indexed by itself, while a general index is made of the whole. The average number of pages in each volume, is 220. Excluding the volume devoted to the General Index, we have in this collection, forty volumes, containing 9,000 folio pages, amounting to 18,000 columns of newspaper matter on this subject of revision. The average circulation of the papers in which this matter has appeared, is not less than 5,000 copies. The average amount of matter in a column, is more than equal to that on an ordinary octavo page. We see then, here, that not less than 900,000,000 of pages of matter have been published, in newspaper form upon the subject of revision; almost all of which has had a direct reference to the operations of the American Bible Union, and, has either favoured or opposed the enterprise.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR.

Of the surpassing merits of the revision of Job we have already spoken. The remaining numbers, with Philological Notes, have

been published in the Monthly Reporter, and the whole has also been issued in a bound volume.

Job, with Notes for the English reader, has been published in a separate volume, and is universally admired and praised.

The duodecimo form has been issued, and is much sought for.

The 32mo, containing the Hebrew text by itself, in poetic form, the only volume of the kind ever printed in this country, has been published, and has called forth expressions of admiration from every quarter.

The revision of Hebrews has appeared in the Reporter, and been issued in a separate volume.

Very few books have been put forth in connection with biblical literature has met with more general commendation.

The revision of Ephesians has also been published in the Reporter. From the encomiums already bestowed on it, we anticipate that it will be as much liked as Hebrews.

The catalogue of the Library has also been completed and printed. It occupies 110 pages, and is likely to be very useful.

The first volume of the Documentary History, a book of 550 pages, of octavo form, has likewise been issued. A description of this may be seen in the list of the Union's publications. The second volume is in press. Whoever desires to become well informed in the history of the Bible Union, and in the arguments by which its enterprises are sustained, will find all that he needs upon these subjects in the Documentary History. Every member of the Union should procure for himself a copy of this invaluable work for constant reference.

FINANCES.

This financial year will be distinguished as closing with the most memorable financial convulsions endured by the present generation. As the bulk of our receipts comes to the treasury in the last months of the year, and a very large proportion in September, it is not surprising that our finances have been materially affected by these convulsions. Under such embarrassing circumstances it is a subject for profound gratitude to the Author of all our blessings, that our income differs very little from that of last year.

CONCLUSION.

Pre-eminently the offspring of Divine Providence, and the subject of special deliverances and signal blessings, the Bible Union finds its strength to consist in its constant dependence upon the God of all mercy and grace. The year that has closed has added a distinguished leaf to the history of our wonderful experience of His goodness. May this anniversary manifest a consciousness of our increased obligations, and the heart of every supporter of our beloved Union respond a loud and grateful Amen.

Correspondence.

English Correspondence.

Letter from Rev. C. Spurgeon.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

Let there should be any doubt respecting the sentiments which the King of Prussia entertains towards the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance which is to be held in this Capital during the present month; a semi-official Berlin journal, the Prussische Correspondenz, has been instructed to inform its readers that—"It is with anxiety and indignation that the king has heard of the restless endeavours being made by certain clergymen and theologians to deter people from attending the meeting about to be held in Berlin by the Evangelical Alliance, with his permission and approbation. His Majesty had, therefore, commanded the Ober-Kirchenrath to make known to all general superintendents his determination not to allow silence on his part to be misrepresented as consent (in this oppositional movement), but was resolved to leave no opening for doubt on this point.

The king attaches the most lively interest to this assembly, in which he hails and welcomes a manifestation of christian fraternal spirit and unity unexampled, and of the Providence that presides over the destinies of the evangelical faith. While far from desirous to impose on any one an attendance at these meetings, the king will as little conceal from every one how much importance he attaches to them, and what auspicious results for the future of the Church he expects from them."

This interesting assembly of Evangelical Christians from the different countries of Europe and America was opened at Berlin on the 9th Sept. The meeting took place in the garrison church, a building capable of accommodating 4000 persons. Prayers invoking the Divine blessing on the labours of the assembly were offered up in German, French, and English. The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, in his prayer, implored the protection of God for his fellow countrymen in India, and the Divine aid in the speedy evangelization of that country.

The number of persons who attended as members of the conference was 1,400, irrespective of all those who were present to witness the proceedings.

earth Peace, good will toward Men."

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1857.

go down to see him at Poir-dam. No less than 900, of whom the English mustered over 250, and the Americans between forty and fifty, availed themselves of this invitation.

They were presented to the king nation by nation in succession. Besides the American and English, there were deputies from France, Switzerland, Holland, Bohemia, Hungary, Southern, Central and Eastern Prussia, and the Russian Provinces on the Baltic.

In the short replies which the king delivered to each nationality in English, French, or German, he made no attempt at oratorical display, but spoke simply and unaffectedly, and most kindly to every one he mentioned.

THE INDIAN MUTINY.

The news from India during the past fortnight is of a chequer-board character, partly encouraging, partly gloomy. A summary of events of such absorbing interest as those which are at the present time transpiring in India may not be unacceptable to the readers of the Christian Visitor. The intelligence of a positively favourable kind comes from the Punjab, and from the noble hand led by General Havelock. The Punjab is that tract of country which lies on the extreme north-western confines of the British possessions in India, it is watered by the five great streams which flow into the river Indus, and from which the name of the country is said to be derived; the word Punjab signifying it is said, five waters, streams, or rivers. Every one who wishes to understand the state of affairs in Hindoostan, should examine a map and notice the chief points mentioned. Throughout the Punjab the mutineers have been quelled, and the admirable administrator of that province, with the cooperation of the gallant general Nicholson, has reduced and disbanded the insurgents, executed formally upwards of two hundred of the ringleaders, received assistance from Cashmere, obtained offers of aid from the hill chiefs, and so far succeeded in tranquillizing the important province under his rule, and in raising new and loyal levies, that general Nicholson, after crushing the rebels at the river Chenab, and the Ravee river, has been set free to march upon Delhi. This is very cheering news, for the Sikhs and other tribes inhabiting that country are at deadly enmity with the Hindoos and Mussulmans, and so far from being inclined to fraternize with them, they are burning to avenge the cruelties practised on certain soldiers of their race, who had fallen into the enemy's hands.

Directing attention now to Cawnpore, an important military post on the Ganges situated midway between Benares and Delhi, we have received intelligence of a no less cheering nature. The advance of General Havelock's column from Allahabad has been one series of victories. This gallant band, which appears to be composed of heroes each one animated with the spirit of its courageous leader, on the re-occupation of Cawnpore July 17th, had, in eight days, marched 126 miles, fought four actions with Nena Sahib's forces against overwhelming odds in point of numbers, and taken 24 guns—and that too in the month of July in India!

Harassed and worn out by their unprecedented exploits of the previous eight days, the brave and victorious army rested a few days at Cawnpore, and then pressed forward to follow up their success. They marched to Bithoor, the castle of Nena Sahib, about six miles from Cawnpore, which they found evacuated, and which they burned to the ground. Thence they directed their steps to the relief of Lucknow, which would take them in an easterly direction about 50 miles. On the 29th of July, and again on the 30th, General Havelock defeated the insurgents, but the want of cavalry prevented him from cutting them up entirely.

At this point of his career, the succeeding telegrams are confused and contradictory, according to one account, the victorious general had been obliged to retreat to Cawnpore, in order to leave there his wounded and sick; malignant cholera having broken out among his men. According to another account he had simply halted and sent back his sick and wounded to Cawnpore, and waited for reinforcements. The latter appears the more probable account, not only from the very nature of the case, but also because a subsequent dispatch mentions that he had resumed his march to Lucknow on the 1st of August, which he could hardly have done had he retraced his steps.

There is also another chronological difficulty in the last dispatch which says that General Havelock might be expected to reach Lucknow on the 8th August; whereas even supposing that he fell back to Cawnpore there does not appear to be any reason why so energetic a commander should be seven days marching fifty two miles to the relief of a besieged garrison, in which case the utmost promptitude is demanded. It is not impossible that the figure 3 has been mistaken for an 8 in the transmission of the telegraph. This is, however, nothing but a mere conjecture.

To counterbalance this gratifying intelligence, comes the sad news of the revolt of four regiments of native Sepoys at Dinapore, which is situated in the vicinity of Patna; and the repulse of a small detachment sent to the relief of the residents at Arrah, about twenty-five miles from Dinapore, who, marching by night, fell into an ambush, and were compelled to retire with severe loss.

Biggill-General G. W. Aymer Lloyd, who was in command at Dinapore, is much

blamed for the imbecility and mismanagement which allowed of such a disastrous outbreak, and he has been deprived of his command, which has been conferred on General Outram.

The mutiny has also shown itself in the Province of Bombay at Kolapore, but appears to have been overpowered. This place lies about one hundred miles to the south of Poona, and about the same distance as that place from the sea.

A Mahomedan conspiracy, with extensive ramifications, had been discovered in the Bombay Presidency, and several arrests had been made. There was naturally in consequence much uneasiness and alarm existing in that part of India; and fears are entertained lest the mutinous spirit should spread to the Madras Presidency.

Amid the anxieties which these reports of necessity occasion, Christian men find relief in prayer to Him who rules the destiny of nations. Both in public and in private the intervention of the Most High is implored to quell the calamitous disorders in India, and check the further spread of anarchy, and also to shield the heads of the brave officers and soldiers whose lives are imperilled by the deadly diseases of the climate and the attacks of desperate foes.

Unanimous is the feeling of horror and indignation, unkindled by the mere recital of the outrages and unutterable atrocities committed not only on men, but on delicate women, and offending children. Mercy to India requires that the insurrection be quelled, and it is devoutly to be hoped that this storm of calamity will be followed by the calm of good government, based on the principles of truth and justice throughout.

By slow degrees and with great difficulty was the Indian Government induced to allow the Missionaries of the Gospel of Christ to have free access to the native population, but the native soldiers have been jealously guarded against the most distant approach of the Christian teacher; even the army Chaplains were not allowed to instruct the Sepoys, their ministrations were confined to the English soldiers.

From the libraries of the Government Schools all religious books have been sedulously excluded, the grants of volumes made by the Religious Tract Society have been declined; and such a course has been dignified with the epithet of neutrality on the subject of religion! In fact, such instruction in science and literature as given in the public schools as must undermine the faith of the Hindoos in the ancient superstition of his fathers, and the grand verities of Christianity are placed out of his reach, while he is handed over to the tender mercies of infidel writers like Hume, Gibbon, and Bolingbroke, with nothing to counteract their insidious teachings; and this is called neutrality!

It is worthy of notice that the mutiny appears to have originated and spread among that very body of men to whom the Christian Missionary had no access; an uncontestable proof that Christian teaching was not even remotely connected with the present outbreak as its cause; and that there are some things which even an irreligious politician ought to acknowledge as far more dangerous in a worldly point of view than religious instruction.

The following circular issued by the Bishop of Norwich is interesting in a two-fold point of view; first, as it evinces the deep feeling of concern for India which pervades the community, and which finds its appropriate expression in humiliation and prayer; and secondly, as it affords an instance of the spirit of liberality, which is finding its way into the breasts of high dignitaries in the Church of England. "The Bishop of Norwich requests the attendance of the clergy and non-conformist ministers, together with the churchwardens, or other lay officers of the churches and chapels of the city, at the palace, on Thursday next, at four o'clock, to consider how far it may be feasible or expedient to hold a special service in all the places of worship in the city, as an opportunity for united prayer and humiliation before God, in connection with the present disastrous events in India."

CONFERENCE OF BAPTIST CHURCHES AT HAMBURG.

The sittings of the fourth Triennial Conference of the Union of Continental Baptist Churches commenced at Hamburg September 2nd.

Mr. Oncken delivered the opening address and was chosen President of the Meeting.

The Report of the state and progress of the churches for the three years, stated that 3,601 believers had been baptized during that time, and twenty-one new churches had been formed. The number of members in all the churches on the 1st of January, 1857, was 6,833. Great increase had taken place in the church at Templin, Prussia; and most encouraging success had been experienced in Sweden.

Messrs. Hinton of London, and Hunter of Nottingham, Dr. Hoby, and several other English friends, were introduced, and a letter from the Baptist Union was read, expressing the interest taken by that body in the German Mission, for which the thanks of the Conference were voted.

On the morning of September 3d, an interesting discussion took place on the necessity of individual activity in the church of Christ. Among the principal points noticed were:

1. The exhibition of practical religion in the social circle.
2. The importance of discretion as well as zeal in the distribution of tracts.
3. The excellence of the Sunday School as a means of increasing both knowledge and activity in the members of our churches.
4. The ability of every Christian to make known to others the way of salvation.

On Lord's day evening, September 6th, after an address from Mr. Hofer, Mr. Oncken read several passages of Scripture bearing on the subject of Baptism, and then administered the ordinance in an impressive manner to several candidates. The chapel was crowded to overflowing, and the profoundest attention was manifested. The services of the day were concluded by the observance of the Lord's Supper.

The business of the Monday morning's sittings was opened by an elaborate address from Mr. Kobner, in which he took a view of the peculiar position of the continental Baptists, showing that they were in no way an imitation of the Baptists of America or England; and that Mr. Oncken, who led the way, had derived his views of truth directly from the perusal of God's word. The mutual relation of the churches in Germany, was therefore very different from that of the American or English churches, who had frequently no relation whatever with each other. He showed that there were two kinds of independence which were perfectly right—first, the individual independence of every Christian; and secondly, the natural independence of churches produced by the simple fact of their distance from each other, but that a third kind of independence was not of God, but of man, and was much to be deprecated—namely, that which does not acknowledge any harmony of action or responsibility to each other of churches separated only by their geographical position. He trusted that the oneness of faith and of action which had so long happily distinguished the German churches, would still continue to exist when himself and others around him were no more.

The sittings of the Conference closed on Sept. 10th.

C. S.

(From our New York Correspondent.)

ITHACA, October 5th, 1857.

Since I last wrote a cloud of gloom has spread over our land, which a dark wave of sorrow has accompanied. The "Central America," freighted with gold, and having 500 passengers aboard, has been engulfed in the ocean. This fearful event has broken many family circles, dissolved the dearest relations of love, blasted the fondest earthly anticipations, and pierced the hearts of multitudes with the keenest shafts of anguish. Some of those whose requiem was the howling tempest, whose shroud was the crest of the billow, whose coffin was the yielding wave, and whose grave was the seaweed and coral, were joyfully welcomed to the courts of a glorious immortality, while others, we have reason to fear, were vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.

A young man, who had been an active and devoted member of Baptist Churches on each side of the Rocky Mountains, was returning to New England for a bride, when he heard the voice of the heavenly bridegroom, saying unto him, "come up hither," and offering a fervent prayer for her whom he would leave to mourn, he departed to join that sanctified host, who are awaiting the marriage supper of the Lamb. Others, who were with him on the ship, that knew not the fear of God, seated themselves around a table, and agreed to gamble while the storm continued. And, says one of their number that escaped their awful fate, because his conscience was so aroused by his fears that he left his merry companions in the midst of their sinful revel. "I believe—I'm sorrow to say it—that some of them went into the presence of their Maker with cards in their hands." The wicked is driven away in his wickedness, but the righteous hath hope in his death.

In the midst of the tempest, while a Norwegian Bark was sailing a North-East course, a bird of strange plumage appeared and flew around the head of the captain, then around his vessel, and afterwards flew into his face, so that it was by him captured. He says, "that he regarded its appearance an omen, denoting that he should change his course;" he therefore veered to due East, and as the result of this change, after a few hours sailing, on a sudden, while encircled with midnight darkness, he found himself surrounded by hundreds of the passengers of the foundered ship, who were still floating upon the foaming billows, and shrieking in agony for help—forty-nine of whom he rescued from a watery grave. "But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Business, at present, is almost at a stand still. Banks, brokers, speculators, merchants, and railroads, have either suspended payment, or else made an assignment, as is usually said, "for the benefit of their creditors," but which sometimes turns out more for their own profit. Everybody has trusted everybody, and now everybody is afraid that everybody will fail, and so everybody has become cautious in all business operations. Our New York banks are generally considered sound, but they are afraid to discount largely, as their bills are soon returned for payment.

The present crisis may be fairly set down to Yankee go aheadiveness; but we shall