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## Miscellanea

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#### Miscellanea.

#### Old and Curious Editions of the Bible.

The origin of the first books of the Scriptures dates back to the age of Moses. In the course of many hundreds of years the "holy men of God" gave expression to the "message from on high" in the Hebrew language for the Old Testament and in Greek for the New Testament, both living languages, used in daily life by the people of those times.

The original writings of the Bible which came from the hands of the first writers were lost; however, the contents of their writings were preserved in this way, that, as the old copies of the text grew worn, duplicates were made on new material. Thus a number of codices came into existence. Not long ago public prints carried the news that the famed Codex Sinaiticus was bought for the British Museum for \$511,250 from the Soviet Government. Under heavy guard it was secretly moved from Russia to England. It is claimed that this amount was the largest sum ever paid for a book or manuscript and that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had offered it to an American last year for \$1,250,000.

A clergyman of Lincolnshire, England, John Wyclif, rendered the first complete translation of Holy Writ into the English of his own day. It was finished in the last quarter of the fourteenth century. But at Wyclif's time, English was still in the making; the version was a translation of the Latin Vulgate and was faulty in many respects. Hence Wyclif's Bible could not become the Bible of English-speaking people.

In this year the quadricentennial of Luther's translation of the complete Scriptures into the new High German is being celebrated throughout the world. This work is not based on the Vulgate, but on the original Hebrew and Greek texts and to our own day is recognized as a classic of permanent worth, becoming the prototype of nearly all versions into modern tongues.

After a number of early attempts to render the Bible into English a folio volume in black-letter types came from the presses of R. Barker (A.V.) in 1611. It was largely a revision of William Tyndale's translation of 1525, and to this man the English-speaking race is more indebted for the Authorized, or King James, Version than to any other. Many new translations were made in the following centuries, but the Authorized Version of 1611 has retained its ascendency.

The earliest edition of a Bible published in America dates back to 1661, a translation into an Indian dialect by John Eliot and printed by Marmaduke Johnson at Cambridge, Mass.

The next Bible printed was that of Christopher Sauer (Saur) in the German language in Germantown, Pa., in 1743. One thousand copies were issued. Other editions were printed by him up to 1776. A copy (third edition) by Sauer in 1776 is kept in a private library at Waukesha, Wis.

Permission was not granted the Colonies to publish the Bible in English prior to the Revolutionary War; the country was to that time supplied with such Bibles from England. The first English Bible printed in America came from the press of Robert Aitken of Philadelphia in 1782, 718

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12mo size. Then followed the folio and quarto editions by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester, Mass., in 1791. In the same year Isaac Collins printed and published a quarto edition bound in two volumes at Trenton, N.J. In 18mo size an edition was produced in 1791/92 by Wm. Young of Philadelphia. Hodge and Campbell of New York printed a self-interpreting Bible in forty numbers, folio, in 1792, the name of George Washington, then President of the States, heading the list of subscribers. Berriman and Company of Philadelphia published editions in 1796, folio. In 1798, John Thompson of Philadelphia printed a beautiful issue, folio, in forty numbers. These early American publications are very rare.

At the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago visitors were shown pages of the Gutenberg forty-two-line Latin Bible, also known as the Mazarin Bible because the copy that first attracted the notice of bibliographers was discovered among the books of Cardinal Mazarin, who died in 1661. Some time ago a copy of this celebrated issue was purchased for \$106,000 and then resold for \$124,000. Of that famous Bible there are extant forty-five copies, eleven in the United States, six alone in New York City; Germany has twelve, England nine, France four, Italy two, Spain two, Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Switzerland each one, while incomplete copies are found in private libraries of book collectors.

One of the most remarkable books in the world, called the "Devil's Bible" and also the "Giant of Books," was brought out of its hiding-place in the Royal Library of Stockholm, about ten years ago, following a request for a photostat copy from the city of Prague, where it was captured at the Swedish conquest in 1648. It was written 800 years ago, and tradition says that it was completed during a single night by a monk who was doomed to die. He, however, needed assistance from the evil spirit and in gratitude made a full-page portrait of Satan, horns, cloven hoofs, and all, which has ever since remained in the Bible. The book is perhaps the largest Bible in the world, its pages being a yard high by a foot and a half wide. It is written on 309 parchment sheets, for which, according to legend, 100 donkeys' hides were required. The lettering has been beautifully illuminated in gold and bright colors.

Among the curious issues of Bibles the following deserve mention: —
The Bug Bible. So called from its translation of Ps. 91, 5 "afraid for
the bugs by night" for "terror." Issued 1551.

The Breeches Bible. The Geneva version of 1561 is sometimes so called because of its substitution of breeches for aprons in Gen. 3, 7. This translation was the English family Bible during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but was later supplanted by the Authorized Version.

The Placemakers' Bible. 1562. Due to a remarkable typographical error which occurs Matt. 5, 9 "Blessed are the placemakers" for "peacemakers."

The Treacle Bible. In Jer. 8, 22 its text reads: "Is there no treacle in Gilead?" for "balm." Issued in 1568.

The Rosin Bible. From the same passage, but translated "rosin" in the Douai Version of 1609.

The He Bible. This issue derives its name from the rendering of Ruth 3, 15: "And he went into the city" instead of "she went." Issued 1611.

The Wicked Bible. Because the negative not has been omitted in the

commandment Ex. 20, 14, for which the printer was fined 300 pounds. Issued 1631.

The Thumb Bible. One inch square and half an inch thick. Published at Aberdeen in 1670.

The Vinegar Bible. So named from the head-line Luke 20, reading "The Parable of the Vinegar" instead of "Vineyard." Issued 1717.

The Printers' Bible. In an edition printed prior to 1702, Cotton Mather tells that a blundering typographer made King David exclaim Ps. 119, 161: "Printers have persecuted me" instead of "princes."

The Sting Bible. London, 1746, printed by Thomas Baskett. In Mark 7,35 the unique wording is found: "The sting of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain" instead of "the string of his tongue," etc. A copy is in a private library at Platteville, Wis.

The Murderer's Bible. So called for an error in Jude 16: "murderers" for "murmurers." Printed 1801.

The Standing Fishes Bible, 1806. Ezek. 47, 10: "The fishes shall stand upon it" for "fishers."

The Discharge Bible, 1806. 1 Tim. 5, 21: "I discharge thee" for "charge."

The Wife-hater Bible, 1810. Luke 14,26: "Hate not his own wife also" instead of "life."

The Ears to Ear Bible, 1810. Matt. 13, 43: "Who hath ears to ear," for "hear."

Rebekah's Camels Bible, 1823. Gen. 24, 61: "Rebekah arose and her camels" instead of "damsels."

To Remain Bible. Gal. 4, 29: "Persecuted him that was born after the spirit to remain, even so it is now." This typographical error, which was perpetrated in the first 8vo Bible printed for the Bible Society, takes its chief importance from the curious circumstances under which it arose. A 12mo Bible was being printed in Cambridge in 1805, and the proof-reader, being in doubt as to whether or not he should remove a comma, applied to his superior, and the reply, penciled on the margin "to remain," was transferred to the body of the text and repeated in the Bible Society's 8vo edition of 1805/6 and also in another 12mo edition of 1819.

Caxton Memorial Bible. In 1877, four hundred years after the introduction of printing into England, this Bible was printed and bound in twelve hours to celebrate the occasion; but only 100 copies were struck off.

Age, as a rule, has very little to do with the actual value of books. What really counts is beauty, oddity, rarity, condition, and, last of all, antiquity.

The price of an old volume is often quick to take hold of the public imagination. Shelley's own copy of Queen Mab was sold for \$12,500 before it finally passed into a private collection, where it will remain. Baxter's Call to the Unconverted was bought for \$34,000. But the old copies of the Book of Books, manuscripts often finely executed in colors and black lettering, tooled folio editions dating to the last half of the 15th century, certain issues of other early and late prints, will command the special attention of present and future generations.

Platteville, Wis.

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### Der Miffionsgebante bei Calvin.

In dem befannten, weitberbreiteten beutschländischen Diffionsblatt "Reue Milg. Miffionszeitschrift" (herausgegeben von Prof. D. Julius Richter, Berlin, und Prof. D. Dt. Schlunt, Tübingen) behandelt unter ber obigen überschrift Studienrat Ernft Bfifterer in Bochum Calvins Stellung gur Beidenmiffion. Es ift dies ein trefflicher, tiefgrabender Artifel, der flar zeigt, wie Calbin bei aller Betonung der gratia particularis boch zur Ebangeliumspredigt in aller Welt auffordern tonnte. Ferner erklärt der Artifel, allerdings akzidentell, wie es bei den calviniftischen Kirchengemeinschaften zu einer fo fast wunderbaren Entwidlung bes Miffionsbienftes, besonders im letten Jahrhundert, fommen fonnte. Intereffant ift, wie in bem Artifel ber Beweis für bie Richtigkeit ber Bieperschen Aussage gebracht wird, daß Calvin in praxi seine theoretisch-spekulative Dottrin alieno modo forrigiert hat. Aus Calvins Rommentar gum Galaterbrief gitiert Pfifterer Die gang lutherifch eingestellten Borte bes großen Genfer Gegners ber Lutherschen gratia universalis-Lehre: "Gott legt und bas Seil aller Menfchen ohne Ausnahme ans Berg, wie Chriftus für die Gunde ber gangen Belt gelitten hat." (Bon und hervorgehoben.) Kerner aus "Bredigten über den 1. Timotheuss brief, Opera 53: "Gott will alle retten, damit, soweit es an und liegt, wir fo das Seil allen berichaffen, die aus dem Reich Gottes berbannt zu fein fcheinen in ber Beit, in ber fie ungläubig find. Alle, bas will nicht beigen, jeben für fich, fonbern alle Staaten und Bolter. . . . Bir dürfen also die Batergute nicht auf uns ober eine gewisse Angahl von Menfchen beidranten." Stem aus einer Bredigt über Deut. 33, 18. 19: "Sie tverben die Bolfer rufen", gitiert ber Schreiber Calvin, wie folgt: "Bas wir bon biefer Stelle festguhalten haben, ift, daß wir berfuchen, foweit es an uns liegt, alle Menfchen ber Erde gu Gott gu giehen, bamit er eins mittig geehrt werbe und ihm alle dienen. Und wahrhaftig, wenn wir etwas Menfchlichkeit in uns haben und feben, daß die Menfchen ins Berberben gehen, bis Gott fie unter seinem Gehorsam hat, muffen wir bann nicht bon Mitleid bewegt werben, die armen Geelen aus ber Solle gu giehen und fie auf ben Beg bes Beils zu führen?"

Allerdings, seine besondere Erwählungslehre gibt Calvin damit nicht auf. In seiner Institutio (III, 23, 12—14) schreibt er: "Beil wir nicht wissen, wer zur Zahl der Auserwählten gehört oder nicht, so müssen wir einem Sinn ausrüsten, der alle zur Seligkeit bringen wir und mit einem Sinn ausrüsten, der alle zur Seligkeit bringen will. [Bon und hervorgehoben.] . . . Soviel an und ist, wollen wir sittliche Mahmungen austeilen wie eine heilsame Arznei, damit niemand sich oder andere ins Berderben bringe. Gottes Sache aber wird es sein, diese Mahnung für seine Auserwählten zu segnen." Ferner aus Calvins Auslegung der Anrede des Baterunsers (Inst. III, 20, 36—40): "Wir wollen nicht einmal bloß an solche denken, die wir gegenwärtig als Christen kennen, sondern an alle Menschen, die wir gan zen Erde; denn wir wissen nicht, was Gott über sie beschlossen hat. Für uns aber ist es eine Regel der Frömmigskeit und Menschliebe, daß wir ihnen das Beste wünschen und erhossen."

Calvin ist daher trot seiner falschen Erwählungslehre — und damit meinen wir seine Lehre über die aeterna reprodatio derer, die nach Gottes Willen n i cht selig werden sollen — start für die Heidenmission eingetreten. Dazu hatte er auch direkte Ursache. Der französische Maltheserritter Nisolas Durand de Villegaignon hatte nämlich im Jahre 1555 nebst dem Abschaum ber Barifer Gefängniffe auch eine Angahl von Reformierten in ber Rabe bes heutigen Rio be Janeiro angesiebelt. Ginen weiteren Schub bon 300 Reformierten, unter ihnen auch den späteren Bfarrer Jean de Lery, sandte dann Calbin burch Bermittlung bes damals noch katholischen Admirals Coligny in diese Kolonie, um bort ihren Landsleuten zu dienen und — bas wurde fehr betont - unter ben Indianern gu miffionieren. Der Plan scheiterte allerbings, aber ber erste Missionsversuch war boch gemacht worden, und zwar nicht gang vergeblich; benn baburch tam Colignh in Fühlung mit Calbin, und bies führte bazu, daß ber bebeutende französische Abmiral später Protestant wurde. Bfisterer schreibt: "Go ist ber calbinifche Miffionsgebanke aus ber Zeitlage entstanden und weift boch weit über fie hinaus. Daburch find die Seinen auf den Tag gubereitet worden, an dem fie die Arbeit unter ben Seiden und Mohammedanern aufnehmen follten. Schon breißig Jahre nach Calvins Tod brach biefer Tag an." letterem meint Bfifterer die Gründung ber niederländischen Seidenmiffion auf ber malaiischen Inselwelt, die nach ber Durchbrechung ber Dzeansperre im Commer 1595 feitens ber helbenmutigen Sollander erfolgte.

Doch in einem Stud tonnen wir Pfifterer nicht recht geben. idreibt: "Ein foldes icharfes Wort wie bas Luthers über Beiben, Juben und Türken kann ich bei Calvin nicht finden. Go knübft ber Calvin bon 1536 an den Luther von 1529 an und entfaltet ben Missionsgedanken immer flarer und reiner bis zur Institutio von 1559 und ftogt dabei die ihn hemmenben Gebankengänge mehr und mehr ab. Calvin, ber Mann ber zweiten Generation unter ben Reformatoren, ift auch hier ber Jogische Luther', wie Doumergue einmal fagt." Diese Darstellung ist ungenau und einseitig, daher auch nicht korrekt. Welch scharfes Wort Luthers über Seiben, Juben und Türken ber Schreiber im Auge hat, wird nicht gefagt. Meint er aber die "harten Worte" Luthers, die er gegen Heiden, Juden und Türken als Feinde des Cvangeliums geaugert hat, fo durfen wir biefe nicht in Gegenfat ftellen zu ben füßen, ebangelischen Miffionsworten, die Luther jo oft betont hat, namentlich in feiner Auslegung ber Pfalmenberheißungen, und die alle nur ben einen Sinn haben, daß ber fiegreiche BErr SEfus alle Auserwählten aus allen Sprachen und Zungen, Bolfern und Gefchlechtern in sein Reich einsammeln wird. Und viele dieser Missionsworte hat Luther nach 1529 geschrieben. Daß Luther nicht baran benten tonnte, Beibenmiffionen zu grunden, erffart fich aus ber Lage ber Beit, nicht aber aus einer etwaigen Berfripplung bes Miffionsgebankens bei bem großen Reformator, berurfacht burch die Bortomnmiffe im Jahre 1529 und fpater. Für seine Entwidlung des Missionsgedankens — wofür allerdings auch äußerliche Gründe vorlagen — verdient Calvin allerdings Anerkennung, aber nicht Anerkennung auf Roften Luthers, dem bei feiner ftarten Betonung der gratia universalis doch nichts näher liegen konnte, als daß das Evangelium allen Bollern gebracht werde, eben weil Gott bas Beil aller einzelnen Menichen will. 3. T. M.