

THE BIBLES OF THE X-TIAN
RELIGION

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Nobody knows how old this earth really is. Scientists have tried in many ways to estimate its age, but our estimate of the age of this planet increases with our knowledge. Astronomical figures are used in computing the age of this planet on which we live. It is sufficient for us to know that this earth is very, very old, probably two billion years, and that it is but one of millions of worlds that follow their orbits thru the broad expanse of the heavens.

We used to think that this earth was created some 5 or 6 thousands years ago. We used to think that its creation took only six days of 24 hours each. There are some who believe that today. I shall, for the time being, follow the scientific explanation, leaving theology for another lecture which I shall deliver later on. The scientific explanation seems to be that this earth came from a fire-mist, or a vast whirling mass of spiral nebulae, so far distant that 1,600,000 years are required for the light from these spiral nebulae to reach the earth. In 1796 a Frenchman named LaPlace first advanced the nebula theory which was rapidly accepted and which holds among scientists of today. The planet Saturn gives much credence to this theory.

However---I am more interested in man than I am in the age of the earth. Here too, we find that man was not created 6000 years ago as some believe, but according to archaeological discoveries made by scientists of unquestioned ability and standing, man was on the earth a minimum of half a million years ago. The story, which is an epic of hardship and achievement, is written in the rocks, in the beds of ancient lakes, and in dark caverns, once the homes of men. Early writers told us of a "golden age" when men did not toil, when nature supplied all their needs. But there

never was such an age. The early days of man were filled with hardships, with strife against giant cave-bears and other animals which sought to devour him, and with struggles against nature. The poets "flowery beds of ease" never did exist.

Now the story is being revealed by the work of scientists who excavate the caves in which human beings once dwelled, who study great heaps of shells, left from ancient meals, and who painstakingly search the record to be found in long abandoned settlements. Time was, when this earth had no human beings on it. Had not man appeared, the earth would be now very much as it was a million years ago. For man is the great killer. Other beings may kill for food, but not for sport, for territory, or for other material possessions.

Had not man appeared, the world would have remained as nature shaped it. Great forests would now cover regions that are barren; grass-covered prairies would replace areas now desolate. No mines, or cuts would deface the landscape, no smoking chimneys, or men would darken the sky, and no refuse would pollute the streams. BUT WITHOUT MAN, there would have been no fire to warm, no light to gladden, no homes to give shelter, no art, no religion---- nothing we call civilization.

Man alone has speech. Other beings have calls; even chickens can warn of danger or indicate food, but, so far as we know, not even the apes have a language. Without language there can be no culture; each individual must learn by imitation, or by trial and error. Man can communicate his experiences, can cooperate. Man speculates, and tries to direct nature. He is an inventor. He alone has perfected weapons and tools, he has domesticated plants and animals---he has broken the soil. Far beyond any other animal he has learned how to control his environment.

Geologists tell us that 99% of the world's history was without man. As they study the strata of the rocks, they find convincing evidence that the upper layers are most recent, and contain modern forms of plant life and animal life. As they go down, they encounter older deposits and quite different types of life. Much was learned thru a study of the Grand Canyon where the Colorado River cut a fissure down to a depth of one mile. As you stand on the rim of this great chasm, you see layer above layer of rocks, in different colors, and containing fossil forms which existed in the countless ages of the past.

By observing many such evidences, of stratification, scientists and geologists have been able to divide the history of this earth into four periods. The first two show no traces of man whatsoever. But--about the middle of the fourth, forms began to appear which may be ancestral to man and the anthropoid apes. I shall not go into the four periods this night, but shall confine myself to a study of man and his Bibles. For ever since man has been known to live on this earth, there has been found also, evidences of his belief in a life after this one, or a continuation of this life on another plane.

The FIRST MEN

The story of the \$\$\$\$ oldest human now known was recorded in a most unusual way, for nature made the record, and then preserved it for more than half a million years. Java is a tropical island in the Dutch East Indies. We have heard much about Java recently. It is famous for its active volcanoes and its beautiful scenery. In the year 1891, Dr. Eugene DuBois, professor of paleontology at the University of Amsterdam, made a discovery which has been the subject of more discussion than of any other thing ever found. For years men had been talking about the likenesses between man

and the apes, but no beings had been found which seemed to bridge the gap, and so they began to talk of a "missing link".

When the waters of a Javanese river were very low, Dr. DuBois gathered bones which protruded from the clays, but when the water was high, he went to a place where the banks sloped up from the water, and sank trenches until he again reached the blue clays. During his work he found hundreds of bones belonging to at least 24 extinct species of animals which formerly lived on Java. One day, much to his surprise, he came upon a molar tooth which looked very much like that of a man, yet had many characteristics similar to the teeth from India, which I have described in a previous lecture.

Later, he found another tooth, and this led him to believe that he had discovered evidences of a high primate, close to man. During succeeding months, he extended his trenches and was rewarded by the discovery of a skull-cap and an upper leg bone. (Note how marvellously nature wrote the record in the rocks) Later, DuBois produced another tooth, two more leg bones and the skull of a child, in the same deposit. It is not my intention to go into a technical discussion of this discovery. Suffice it to say, it was later decided by scientists and geologists that the being to whom those teeth and bones belonged, walked ~~####~~ erect. So they called him PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS.

It is known then, that man, walking erect, trod this earth half a million years ago, and probably lots longer than that. It is interesting to note that the man I shall next describe, recently found in China, is definitely related to this "first man". In 1927, J.G. Andersson of the Chinese Geological Survey, was led to a cave where bones had been discovered by some of his exploring coolies. The details of this discovery of the Pekin man are

well known, as the Rockefeller Foundation provided the funds with which to further excavate the site. In the cave where this man was found, was also found the first evidences of man killing animals for food, and building a fire on which to cook them. And this man also dates back to about 500,000 years ago, altho he was only discovered in 1927. So you see, we are learning much in these progressive days. This man also made stone tools, and I have in my possession, an arrow-head which Dr. Furnas has seen, which came from this Peking region. More than two tons of human bones were excavated from this historic cave near Peking, China.

Startling as it may seem, these first men were either cannibals or head-hunters, or both, for in the debris, along with animal bones, were found skeletons of more than 25 human beings, none of them having a head. The most complete portions show that the necks had been broken. Perhaps to extract the brains, as fossilized skulls found in other regions also contained fossilized brains, but not here.

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Now that we have established the great age of man, and discarded the theory that the Almighty made him in the year 4004 B.C. we shall begin a study of the Bibles of recent man. We shall also confine ourselves to the study of the Bibles of man as he exists today. We shall go farther than that, by confining our remarks to the ~~Christian~~ Bibles of the Christian era. This is a nation which, nominally, at least is Christian. I wish it really were, but that wish is aside from our discussion of the evening.

There are eleven major systems of religion on the earth today. All but one are far older than Christianity. A student of comparative religions cannot help but be struck by the similarity of Christianity to far older religions.

Those of us who try to find the answer to the G&D proposition, must consider all the evidence. We cannot blindly accept the theories of any one of the eleven major systems of religion on the earth. Certainly we cannot accept in toto the claims of the second most recent of all, denying those same claims which far older religions made in their Bibles. Now just a hasty glance at the eleven major living religions before we study the bibles of the Christian religion.

At least 1500 years before Christ was ever heard of, or about 1500 B.C. the ruling religion on this earth was ~~\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$~~ Hindooism. It follows a god called Brahma and its Bible is called the Vedas. These Vedic hymans contain much that we find in the Christian Bible, and for sheer beauty of thought, the Vedas are hard to equal. Hindooism has today about 256 million followers.

1200 year before Christ, came Judaism which was reputedly founded by Moses, altho Moses was not alive then, and did not live for centuries later. Nevertheless, Moses founded Judaism its followers tell us. The Bible of Judaism is the Old Testament. It does not recognize the New Testament. It has about 15 million followers, or had before the war. Hitler is supposed to have experminated 5.000.000 Jews, shocking to relate.

660 years before Christ, we find Shintoism which is practiced by the Japanese. Its founder is unknown. It worships nature-gods and has about 16.000.000 followers.

Also about 660 years B.C. came Zoroastrinism which religion worshipped Zoroaster who is supposed to have been born of a virgin, crucified on a cross, rising again on the third days. This religion is prevalent in Persia

and India. Its Bible in what is known as the Zend-Avesta, also a very beautiful book containing the very highest thoughts and ideals. This religion has about 150,000 followers at the present time.

Next we find Taoism. This religion originated about 600 years B.C. Its Founder was Lao-Tze and its Deity is Tao--a virgin-born god of antiquity. This is the religion of China, if China can be said to have a religion. In any event, 43 million people study their bible which is known as the Tao-Teh-King, and that's a lot of Chinamen.

Next comes Jainism. This religion came into existence at about the same time as Taoism, 600 B.C. Its founder was a supposedly divine god called Vardhamana. This religion flourishes in India, its Bible is known as the Angas, and it has about 1,000,000 adherents, the rest of the people of India being either Brahmans or Buddhists.

500 years before Christ, Buddhism came into being. This religion was founded by a virgin-born god called Gautama Buddha, who is looked upon as the Son of God, and the third person of a divine trinity. Its Bible is known as the Tripitaka, and the religion has about 150,000,000 followers.

The next religion is Christianity. This was born, we are told, about 570 A.D. It worships Jesus Christ as God, is known throughout the world, and of course, its sacred writings is the Christian Bible. It is estimated that it has about 500 million followers. That is nominal of course, as a late release shows that not over 15% of the nominal followers of Christ ever attend church. This probably applies to the followers of other religions also, so I mean no disparagement here. I am merely stating facts, and facts never lie. There can be no religion higher than truth.

The one religion more recent than Christianity is Mohammedanism. That came into existence about 570 A.D. It worships Mohammed, whom it considers a virgin-born God, the third part of a trinity. It is prevalent throughout the Moslem countries, and there is one thing I may say here in favor of this religion. Whenever high noon comes, no matter what its followers are doing, they face the east, go down on their faces, and pray. I wonder whether we should have had a world war had Christians done that? Mohammedanism has a bible named the Koran, a very beautiful piece of literature, and its followers are about 250,000,000 people.

So much then for the eleven major religions of this earth. There are scores of others of course, but those I have mentioned are the older systems.

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Now we come to a study of the different bibles of the Christian religion. In passing may we say that other ^{religions} ~~religions~~ have had many bibles as we have had. The interesting thing to me about these bibles is how they change as the years go by. Just a few years ago, those who hold the destiny of the Christian bible in their hands, decided to delete the word Jehovah. The reason given was that followers of the Christian religion do not pray to, or use the name Jehovah. Yet the Christian religion was founded on that name. As a matter of fact, there were seven Jehovahs, the name coming from the Hebrew god Yahweh.

If you look on the title-page of our modern Bibles, you will find there this statement:- "TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES". That statement is not factually true. It does not give a true picture of the contents of the Bible. Rather, it gives a picture which is incomplete and misleading, in that it does not tell the whole truth. This is not meant to detract from the many good things in the Christian Bible, and there is enough spiritual meat in any Bible, which, if eaten, will take care of us thru this life and whatever other life there may be.

But in order to gain the true perspective, it is necessary in religion, as in anything else, to get at the truth. There is no religion higher than truth. If there is that in religion which clashes with known truth, then known truth must take first place. This befuddled world is hungry for the truths of God. Those truths will be discovered more rapidly if we study all Bibles in the light of known facts and truth.

I said the statement that the contents of our present-day Bible were translated out of the original tongues was very misleading. As a matter of fact, there does not exist now, and there has never been known to exist one original manuscript covering any book in the Bible. This may shock those who believe that the entire volume was given by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and it may have been. But in all the world, there does not exist one original manuscript of any book in the Christian Bible.

The first translation of some of the Hebrew scriptures (for all were not yet written) was the Septuagint into Greek under Ptolemy II, King of Egypt. It was started in Alexandria, the home of most religions, in the year 300 B.C. and was not completed until 300 years later. This Greek Translation differs materially from the Hebrew. About 400 A.D. Jerome made his translation from the Septuagint into the Latin, or Vulgate translation, from

which our King James version came.

This Vulgate edition was so corrupt that Roger Bacon said:- " It is so horribly corrupt as to be unworthy of acceptance". It is significant to note that Jerome, a Roman Catholic Pope, threw away several of his earlier translations, exclaiming---"they are not worthy of acceptance. However, in 1546 A.D. some 1200 years later, the Council of Trent accepted the Vulgate edition of the Christian Bible and threatened death to anyone who presumed to interpret the volume in any other way than that ordered by Rome. It is a fact that the present Christian Bible is a Roman Catholic volume, although the Romans use what is known as the Douay version, and do not allow their followers to read any Bible. At any rate, they frown upon such readings.

In 1609 A.D. this Latin Vulgate, including both Old and New Testaments, with the Apochrypha added, was in turn translated into the Douay version thus removing it from both Greek and Hebrew translations. The Protestant versions in English, including the King James version of 1611 A.D. are more directly from the Greek and the Hebrew. You will recall the famous Scopes trial in which William Jennings Bryan took such an important part. Well the prosecutor in that trial was stunned when evidence was introduced proving that no original manuscript had ever been known to exist covering the books in the King James version. Now I do not say that the original manuscripts never did exist. I merely state that they do not exist now; moreover, there is no evidence that they ever did exist.

If you open a current Christian King James version of the Christian Bible, you find the date of the creation given in the margin as 4004 B.C. It is interesting to note how that date came to be there. There was, in Armagh,

Ireland, an old man who happened to be the Archbishop of Armagh. His name was James Ussher. This old man read his Bible with care, did lots of calculating, and more tiresome addition, and then announced that this planet was created at 9 A.M. on October the 26th. 4004 B.C. Now that was in 1654 A.D., which made the total age of this earth, about 6000 years. We know scientifically that this earth is at least two billion years old, so in this case, the preachment of Archbishop Ussher must give way to known scientific facts. The interesting part of this story is that the compilers of the present Christian Bible, accepted Ussher's chronology, and it still appears in the King James' version, altho it has been deleted from the revised version.

Now let us go back and interest ourselves in the many different Bibles which came into print, from the time of the Alexandria translation of the Septuagint until today. It is very interesting, and every Christian should know far more about his Bible than he knows. It should not be left to ministers and priests to interpret for him. He should do his own interpretation, I believe. The remarkable fact of the Christian Bible is that there have been so many different editions, volumes, and translations.

The Christian Bible is not one book. It is neither single nor homogenous. It was first printed in Latin in 1452 A.D. by Guttenberg in Mainz, Germany. The name "Bible" indicates its nature as a collection of writings, not a single volume. The name Bible is the Latin Biblia, from the Greek diminutive plural ta biblia, or "the little books", a term first used as referring to the Hebrew Scriptures in 1 Maccabees 12:9. The word "biblos", from whence comes the diminutive biblia, is from the Greek bublos or papyrus, the name of the material on which the ancient books were written. The title "Ta Biblia", for the whole scriptures, Hebrew and

Christian, was first used in the Second Epistle of Clement 14;2 and was written in A.D. ### 170.

The Christian Bible then, is a gathering into one volume of 66 separate "little books" or fragmentary "sacred" writings, from Genesis to Revelation. These 66 little books were written and compiled by unknown authors for the greater part, in very different ages of the world, in different countries and languages, Hebrew and Greek principally. They were almost invariably written by Jews. It is interesting to note that according to the genealogy of Jesus given in the New Testament, he was a Syrian Jew--yet the Jews have never accepted either the New Testament or Jesus Christ. I have seen many Syrian Jews in Syria. They are dark-skinned swarthy people, much the same complexion as a Hindoo or an Arab. So the next time you see a picture of Jesus depicted as a blond white man, you may safely discard that picture. For Jesus was a Syrian Jew.

Now there lived a rather famous historian about 300 A.D. by the name of Origen. In this century, he made a revision of the Septuagint, which was first printed in Venice in folio form, in 1516 A.D. So you see the Christian Bible is not \$\$\$\$\$\$ an old compilation of little books, it is comparatively new. There were early Latin versions of the Bible, the origin of which is shrouded in mystery. The most celebrated of these is called the Vetas Itala. It was in the 4th century A.D. that Jerome made his many translations, or rather revisions of this Vetas Itala, but he was so dissatisfied with all his translations that it was not until about 1200 years later that they were published. The actual date of the first printing of the Christian Bible is unknown, but it was somewhere between 1450 and 1465 A.D. That makes the first printing of the Christian Bible \$\$\$\$ less than 400 years ago.

In the latter part of the 9th century, parts of the Bible were translated into the German language, and at least 24 different versions appeared before printing came into vogue. After that, they increased in number and volume. Luther's New Testament appeared in 1522 A.D. and was published at Wittenberg in two volumes. In 1524 A.D. the whole Bible, with the exception of the prophetic scriptures, was published in 3 volumes in Nuremberg in Germany.

The most famous of all Bibles in my opinion is Wycliffe's manuscript Bible. In 1380 A.D. he had completed his translation of the New Testament. There is almost no information available concerning the early life of John Wycliffe. He was probably born in the year 1324 A.D. in a little village in Yorkshire in the north of England. He was one of the first students at Oxford university, which was founded by Queen Phillipa in 1340 A.D. He was a Roman Catholic, having taken orders as a priest, but he ran into serious difficulty with the Vatican, opposing Pope Urban the 5th in his demand for tribute from the English crown. In 1377 A.D. he was tried for heresy, in St. Pauls Church London, and in May of the same year, another Pope, Gregory the 11th issued four bulls by which he was cited to appear again for trial for heresy. However, he escaped because of a split in the Roman church, and by the intervention of the Queen-mother of England. Finally, his rabid utterances brought to him ostracization from Oxford, where he was lecturing at this time, and he was forbidden by the King to do any more translating or lecturing. He had a small parish in the north of England, where he preached and wrote until the fall of 1384, when he was stricken with paralysis while preaching. Two days later, he died.

Wycliffe's Bible was the first translation of the entire Bible into English. It was rendered from the Latin Vulgate, translated by Jerome, and

was written so the common people could understand it. I have one of these valuable Bibles in my possession. It is interesting to note that in his translation, Wycliffe began with the last book in the Bible, and worked thru the New Testament later. The Old Testament is not his. This is not usually known, but most of the work on the Wycliffe Old Testament was done by a friend whose name was Nicholas de Hereford, who carried the translation as far as Ezekiel. Wycliffe probably completed the Old Testament after his friend was tried for heresy.

Copies of this Bible were multiplied as fast as the pens of writers could do the work. They were eagerly sought by all classes. Some were published in MSS form, some in quarto, and many in smaller size. I might remark in passing that I do not keep my old Bibles in Moscow as they are far too valuable. It is interesting to note that altho printing was established less than 100 years after Wycliffe's death, no Wycliffe Bible was actually printed until Dr. Clarke, in 1823 A.D. printed his comments on Wycliffes Song of Solomon. Wycliffe's New Testament was not published until 1848, so you see even this Bible is quite recent. A comparison of the Wycliffe Bible with those of today shows little resemblance. It has been one change after another. Perhaps, some day, we may discover what it is God really wants to reveal to mankind.

A century and a half after Wycliffes death, one John Tyndale came forth with another Bible. He is noted for his New Testament translation. He was born in the south of England in 1484 A.D. and little is known of his youth. He attended both Oxford and Cambridge universities, and later became a private tutor to a wealthy English family. It was while acting in this capacity that he made his famous statement, ~~#####~~ while arguing with a supposedly learned divine:- "BY THE GODS, AND IF GOD SPARE

MY LIFE, I WILL CAUSE A BOY THAT DRIVETH A PLOW TO KNOW OF THE SCRIPTURES THAN THE PRIESTS DO".

In 1521 A.D. Tyndale released his first edition to the press. He had to write it secretly however, and was constantly hounded and threatened with death by the church, if he did cease and desist from his labors along that line. The English government took every step to prevent the publication of his Bible, but he smuggled them into London in sacks of grain, where they were stealthily sold to those having the money. In 1526 Bishop Tunstall issued a decree forbidding the use or possession of the book, and directing all copies to be destroyed. Strange how churchmen were the very ones to suppress knowledge of God from being gained by the general public.

In 1543 A.D. The English Parliament passed a law banning the \$\$\$\$ Tyndale Bible from publication, so Tyndale left England and went to Worms, where he released a volume on the Pentateuch, which, as you know, is the first few books of the Old Testament. Later he was arrested, tried for heresy, and then strangled and his corpse burned. At the moment before his death, he cried, thru the agonies of strangulation:- "OH LORD, OPEN THE EYES OF THE KING OF ENGLAND".

COVERDALE'S BIBLE

Miles Coverdale was born about 1488 in the north riding of Yorkshire. He too, like Wycliffe and Tyndall, was educated at Cambridge, and was attached to the Convent of the Augustinian monks there, and in 1514 was admitted to priests orders. Up to this date, every translator was a Roman Catholic. In 1527 he left the convent and began preaching to the masses in an attempt to escape persecution. It is strange how the church has persecuted, and many times killed those who stood for spiritual freedom and enlightenment. As far back as church history goes, we find the church itself, blocking all efforts to advance. Everyone who showed the slightest inclination to read the Bible according to his own God-given reason, was subject to the persecution of the church, and in many cases put to death. Jesus himself was crucified by church-members. It is not yet 400 years ago since John Calvin, the founder of Presbyterianism, ordered the brutal murder of a physician, one Dr. Michael Servetus, for issuing a pamphlet denying the Trinitarian doctrine. Later they built a monument to him, but that could not cause the life's blood to circulate once more thru his veins.

And so, together with Tyndall, and so many others, Miles Coverdale fled abroad to escape the persecution of his own church. In the year 1535 his Bible was printed. This Bible was printed in Antwerp by a Jacob Van Meteren and the sheets, type, etc were afterwards sold to one Nicholson of Southwark, England. In 1538 Coverdale aided in bringing into existence the Great Bible, which I shall touch upon shortly. In 1540, Coverdale returned to Germany where he continued his preaching, and on his return to England in 1538 he was made a chaplain to Edward the Sixth. Later he was appointed Bishop of Exeter but on accession of Mary to the throne in 1553, he was deprived of his see and threatened with martyrdom, which he would have suffered, had he not asked Christian the Third of Denmark to intervene.

He was, however, imprisoned, and he joins the great list of martyrs who suffered persecution at the hands of the church, for trying to get at the facts concerning God and the Bible. He died in 1569 however, at the age of 81.

MATTHEWS BIBLE

The real editor of the Bible known as Matthews Bible was John Rogers. He was born about the year 1500 A.D. in a hamlet which has long since been absorbed by the City of Birmingham. He graduated from Cambridge in 1535 and later entered holy orders. In 1537 he became rector of a church in London, and shortly afterwards, he left for Antwerp, where most of the Bible translators went before they were through with their work. Here in Antwerp, he met Miles Coverdale and Tyndall, and, in all probability, he had much to do with their work, as his ideas were quite reformatory, and his translations unique. Shortly after arriving in Antwerp, he broke from Rome and married. It was in the year 1537 that the Bible of "Thomas Matthew" appeared. There is no question that Rogers was the real editor, but why the name "Thomas Matthew" appeared on the MSS is one of the many mysteries of religious literature. It is useless to repeat the conjectures. The same printer in Antwerp, who printed Miles Coverdale's Bible, also printed John Matthews Bible.

Once more, we find the church persecuting one of the men who made religious history, for John Rogers was arrested, thrown into jail where he languished for nearly three years. His crime was, refusing to acknowledge Papal authority. On February the fourth, 1555 A.D. he was publicly burned at the stake in Smithfield, he being the first of many who so perished, martyrs of the Marian persecution. This Bible was not so much a translation, as a reviewing of the translations of others. John Rogers was a fine scholar, and his work is very outstanding and is an interesting work.

TAVERNERS BIBLE

The next Bible to appear was written by Richard Tavener who was born in Brisley, Norfolk, in England in the year 1505. He was one of the young men who were imprisoned in the cellar of one of the buildings in Oxford, for reading Tyndales New Testament. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar. In 1534 Oliver Cromwell secured for him a position in the government service, and in 1539 he published his edition of the Bible. It must be remembered here, that these old Bibles differ very materially from the King James version, in common use today. I believe every minister and priest should be made to learn the complete history of all Bibles, and I also believe they should be made to read them.

After the fall of Cromwell, Taverner was once more imprisoned for reading the scriptures he had translated. This learned and eccentric preacher died at the ripe old age of seventy, on July the 14th 1575.

THE GREAT BIBLE

The Great Bible was given to the public in 1539, although there have been many later editions, and these are not too hard to get even now. The prime moving spirit in the production of the Great Bible was Thomas Cromwell, who was born in London of humble parentage. He was employed by Cardinal Wolsey, and after the fall of Henry the 8th, took him into his service, and from that time his promotion was very rapid. He was made Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State, a Baron, a Master of the Rolls, and about a dozen other honors were given to him. He was beheaded for treason in 1540, his treason consisting of "assisting in the Reformation". Thomas Cromwell was not a religious man. He was a great friend of Miles Coverdale who tried long and often to convert him, without success however. For these were bloody times, and Cromwell was a man of blood, at last going to his death under the axe, to whom he had committed so many others. Its

hard to picture a non-religious man being mainly responsible for the Great Bible, but that is the fact of the matter. After his death, Cromwell's Bible was called Cranmer's Bible, after an Archbishop of the church. Cranmer, however, had nothing whatsoever to do with the production of the Great Bible. Cromwell's Great Bible was a compilation of the translations of Coverdale and Tyndale. Be it remembered here, that these different translations were one from another. There did not exist a single original manuscript from the pen of any writer whose name now appears in the Bible as we know it.

After the Great Bible was partially completed, an order came from the Inquisition, forbidding further printing of the Great Bible, and commanding that all printed copies be seized and destroyed. Twenty-five hundred copies were seized and burned, but there were some which escaped the vats in which the destruction took place. This Bible was called "Great" on account of its size, although this Bible is not nearly as large as the famed "breeches" Bible. The pages of the Great Bible are 9 by 15 inches only.

There appeared about this time a New Testament written by one Richard Whittingham, but as there is nothing unusual about this Bible, I'll pass it by, remarking only that this is a beautifully printed Testament, set in Roman 6pt type. This book is very scarce.

THE GENEVAN BIBLE

Three years after Whittinghams Bible, there appeared what is known as the Geneva Bible, a beautiful small 4-volume affair in Roman type. This Bible was a joint production of the scholarly and pious refugees in Geneva, among whom was their pastor Whittingham, to whom I have recently referred. Miles Coverdale was there too, together with John Knox, Christopher Goodwin, who worked on this Geneva Bible. This work was begun in January 1558 and finished in April 1560, when it was first published. This Bible deals mainly with the Old Testament, and is a scholarly work when one considers the time in which it was written. This Geneva Bible was the first Bible printed in Roman type, with the exception of Whittinghams. It was the first to use italics, and the first to omit the Aposhrypha. The book was dedicated to Queen Elizabeth to whom it was dedicated. This Bible is valuable, but by no means scarce. I bought one for \$100 a few years ago.

There followed then the Bishop's Bible, but as there is nothing outstanding about it, I shall not refer to it, except that it marks "passages which are not suitable to be read in public". One of the passages so marked is the following:- "AND THEY SIT UPON THE WALLS OF THE CITY AND DRINK THEIR OWN PISS AND EAT THEIR OWN SHIT". In our King James version, the most dirty word of the two has been changed to "dung", but the passage still remains, altho I have never heard a sermon preached from that text.

In 1568, there gathered a group of Roman Catholics at Douay, in Flanders. Their job was to train men for the priesthood. Later, they moved to Rheims where a group of educators gave us the Douay version, which is completely Latin, and is used today by the Roman Catholic Church, when a Bible is used. The sole purpose of this Bible was to check the influence of

the English Bibles which I have mentioned earlier in this lecture. These English Bibles, this little group of Romans called "heretical", so they re-translated the whole mass of translations into Latin, and then forbade their followers to read it.

THE AUTHORIZED VERSION

Now we come up to date. We find we have given to us the Authorized Version, which is in popular use today. This is the Bible which states that whatever appears therein was "translated out of the original tongues". As I have explained, it was translated from copies, and copies of copies of documents, whose authorship is completely unknown. It was not translated out of the original tongues--at least--I cannot grant it that authority until some of the original manuscripts which were all lost, have been recovered. The authorized version is an Oxford product. It was worked on by many scholars of the puritanical type. These ##### men were the most outstanding educators in England, and there were over 50 of them who worked on this Bible.

Then came the American Revision, and there have been many revisions since that time. I shall close by calling attention to a few other Bibles which, because of some of the translated passages, set them aside as quite valuable.

THE BUG BIBLE

This is Matthews Bible of 1551. Instead of reading in Psalms 91;5 "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night", the Bug Bible reads as follows: "THOU SHALT NOT NEED TO BE AFRAID FOR ANY BUG THAT FLY BY NIGHT".

THE BREECHES BIBLE

In this Bible, Genesis 3;7 reads as follows:--"And seeing that they were naked, they sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves breeches".

THE TREACLE BIBLE

This is an edition of the Bishops Bible. I forgot to mention that the Breeches translation is from the Geneva Bible. The treacle Bible gives us Jeremiah 8;22 as follows:- "IS THERE NO TREACLE IN GILEAD?" The authorized version reads:- "IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD"

THE ROSIN BIBLE

This is the Douay version, and the last mentioned quotation about the balm, reads like this:- "IS THERE NO ROSIN IN GILEAD"

There are many other strange Bibles which contain typographical and other errors, but I believe I have covered all of the important Bibles of the Christian Church.

Without attempting to preach, may I leave with you all the thought that if one takes the good from any Bible, or from any other inspired work, forgetting the mistakes of their human authors, one will have sufficient inspiration to guide him aright thru this life, and thru whatever other life there may be.