

THREE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF BIBLE

PROFESSOR F. A. STUFF GIVES INTERESTING ADDRESS.

TIME OF HIGH SCHOLARSHIP

Learned Men Made Careful and Conscientious Revision and Work Still Stands.

At the same time that Shakespeare was writing his last great drama, "The Tempest," about three squares distant the work on the revised version of the English bible was nearing a close. This was 300 years ago this month, and yesterday at convocation Professor F. A. Stuff gave an intensely interesting lecture on the methods and causes of the revision.

When James I became king of England on the death of Elizabeth, the Puritans immediately sent messengers to him asking for a revision of the Bible. James announced a conference of church men at Hampton Court for the purpose of considering changes. Dr. Reynolds of Oxford championed the Puritan cause and made many objections to the Bishop's bible in a very able and brilliant manner. However, the bishop's influence was too strong just at that time to allow many changes.

Scholarly Age.

At this time in England scholarship was rather high, and the king himself was a learned man. He decided that the Bible really needed revision. In 1604 he appointed a committee of fifty-four men to do the work. On the commission were Anglican and Puritan clergymen and laymen. They were divided into three groups, one at Westminster, one at Oxford and one at Cambridge. Each had a separate portion of the Bible to translate. The final work was done by six members of the committee in London.

Speaking of former translations, Dr. Stuff spoke of several of the early works. All of course came first from the original in Hebrew. The most ancient translation was a Greek one at 180 B. C. In 390 to 404 B. C. came Jerome's Latin translation, one of the most remarkable of early linguistic feats. When printing was invented in 1454, a complete Bible was put on the press and completed the following year. In 1488 came Erasmus' translation from the Hebrew. Luther's new testament in German was published

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in 1522. Next came the first great English Bible, Wickliffe's translation, a few years later. Wickliffe wrote in simple, rugged style and did a wonderful work and one that was very popular.

Tindall's Work.

The person who had the greatest effect on the English Bible was William Tindall. Tindall was a brilliant student, working at Oxford and later at Cambridge under the great Greek, Erasmus. He found it hard to get any of his works printed in England, so went to the continent. He put in one year in close companionship with Luther. In 1525 he got his translated scriptures printed and sent to England, where they were received with great joy by the common people, who had never before had Bibles they could read. For three years the ecclesiastics in England tried to destroy this Bible, and at present only two fragments of it are in existence. While in Europe, Tindall was arrested and charged with heresy, and burned at the stake. But his influence lived and nine-tenths of the King James version is in his language, which was excellent for his time. There were ten or twelve other Bibles used by the revision committee. Each man's work in the committee was carefully gone over by the other members. The labor was thoroughly and conscientiously done and has held its own for three centuries over all other versions. The late American version is accounted the greatest work of scholarship in Bible translation, but it will be many years no doubt before it reaches in popularity the King James authorized version.

PHI ALPHA TAU BANQUET.

Honorary Debating Fraternity Spends Evening at the Lincoln.

Phi Alpha Tau, the honorary debating fraternity, held its second annual banquet at the Lincoln last night, about thirty members being present. The following six were initiated to membership: C. L. Rein, C. L. Clark, Earl Cline, Fred McConnell, Clifford Phillips and T. J. Andrews. Ben M. Cherrington was toastmaster. The following toasts were responded to: "Yesterday," Frank A. Peterson; "The Faculty," Prof. G. O. Virtue; "Today," Arthur M. Oberfelder; "The University," Prof. M. M. Fogg; "Tomorrow," Earl M. Cline. Several brief addresses were also made.



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