

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE PRINTING ART.—The first paper-mill in America was erected in Boston, in 1730, the Legislature of Massachusetts granting aid. The first type-foundry was established at Germantown, Pennsylvania, several years before the Revolution, from which the Bible and other works were printed in the German language. As late as 1810, there were but three type-foundries in the United States. The first printing press in the colonies, and for 20 years the only one in North America between the Gulf of Mexico and the Frozen Ocean, was established at Cambridge, in 1638. It was nearly a century later, (1721,) before the Virginia colonists permitted a press to be set up. Rev. Jesse Glover procured the press used at Cambridge, by contributions of friends of learning and religion in Amsterdam and in England, but died on his passage to the new world. Stephen Day was the first printer, and as such received a grant of 300 acres of land. The third book published was "The Psalms in Metre." In 1661, the New Testament and Baxter's Call, translated by Elliot into the Indian language, were printed, at a cost of some £1200. The title reads thus:—"Wusku Wuttestamentum Nul-Lordunum Jesus Christ Nuppoquohwusuaenenun." The whole Bible was printed in 1663. The nation speaking this language is now extinct.

The first newspaper printed in the North American colonies was called "The Boston News-Letter," and was issued in 1704, by John Campbell, a Scotchman, who was post-master and a bookseller at Boston. Sometimes it had one advertisement, and often none. After fourteen years, when 300 copies were sold, the publisher announced that his weekly half sheet being insufficient to keep up with the foreign news, he should issue an extra sheet each fortnight; which expedient he announces, after a year, has enabled the "News-Letter" to retrieve eight months of the thirteen that it was behind in the news from Europe; so that those who would hold on till the next January, (five months,) might expect to have all the arrears of intelligence from the old world "needful for to be known in these parts." After sixteen years the publisher gives notice that copies of the "News-Letter" would be "printed on a whole sheet of writing-paper, one half of which would be blank, on which letters might be written," etc.

Such was the infancy of newspaper enterprise in this country. Could John Campbell look into the office of the American Messenger, and see its edition of 125,000 copies rolling off from the press, or step into the office of one of the "dailies," with a four-cylinder press issuing its 8,000 or 10,000 sheets an hour, what would be his emotions? How would our mercantile community, who can hardly wait for the lightning, that they may get the news, like the promise of instalments of European intelligence thirteen months old? Should we not be grateful to God for a FREE PRESS? And should we not be untiring in our efforts to spread its blessings and the blessings of a free Gospel through the world?

We condense the above interesting facts from an article contained in the American Messenger, a Missionary journal of great circulation and usefulness.—*Albany Express*.

The Cholera.—A Laudable Movement.

We are glad to perceive that the attention of our authorities has at last been properly awakened, in relation to the approaching Cholera. At the last meeting of Councils, a resolution was offered by Ambrose W. Thompson, in the Common Council, that a Joint Special Committee of three from each Council be appointed, to obtain information and report upon a general plan of preventing the introduction of the Cholera into Philadelphia, or for its counteraction and remedy, should it reach the city; and that the Committee have authority to call in such medical advice as they may deem necessary, for the purpose of making a thorough practical report.

The Common Council appointed Messrs. Thompson, Poulson, and Lennig, as their Committee. The Select Council postponed the consideration of the resolution until the next meeting.

This is a very proper beginning, and it is to be hoped that the Select Council will promptly concur. There is no time to be lost.

Sale of Real Estate, &c.—The Real Estate, Stocks, &c., sold last evening, at the Exchange, by M. Thomas & Son, brought the following prices:—15 shares Philadelphia and Atlantic Steam Navigation Company Stock, par \$100—sold for \$72; Pew No. 20, west aisle Unitarian Church, Tenth and Locust streets, \$50; lot of ground between Front and Second, Vine and Callowhill streets, 20 feet front by 27 feet 4 inches deep, \$150; two story brick dwelling, 102 Spruce street, \$4750, do do do 105 do do, \$4750; mansion, 381 Arch street, lot 50 feet front by 175 feet deep to Academy street, \$19,000; two story brick dwelling 85 Cherry street, \$2000; new residence Race between Schuylkill Second and Third, \$4400; neat modern residence northeast corner Lemon and Eleventh street Spring Garden, \$3825; three three story brick dwellings Schuylkill Fourth above George Spring Garden, \$1525.

The First American Bible.

Dr. Thomas Robbins, a learned bibliographer and historian, communicates the following article to the New York Observer. It appears that the Bible published by recommendation of Congress was not the first printed in this country.

Ancient Bibles.

Messrs. Editors—I am obliged to your correspondent of Summit county, Ohio, Mr. J. H. M'Millan, for his observations on my remarks before the American Bible Society at their late anniversary. In presenting a copy of Aitken's Bible, printed at Philadelphia in 1781, I gave the opinion that it was the first Bible in our own language published in this country. I had heard that an English Bible was printed in Germantown before the Revolution, but had doubts of the fact. Mr. M'Millan's successful researches have led me to a more particular examination of the subject, and the following is a just account of the early publications of the Bible in our country, so far as I have been able to ascertain the facts.

Elliot's Indian Bible, the first printed on the American continent, was published in 1663; and the second edition in 1685. Christopher Lower, a printer in Germantown, published a German Bible in small quarto in 1743. Christopher Lower, Jr., printed a second edition of the same work in 1762; and in 1776 a third edition, a handsome quarto well executed. The Lowers were men of enterprise and learning. The property of the younger was much injured by the revolutionary war, particularly by the battle of Germantown in 1777.

About the year 1752, I do not know the time exactly, Kneeland and Green, partners in business in Boston, printed an edition of the Bible in small quarto. "It was carried through the press as privately as possible, and had the London imprint of the copy from which it was reprinted, viz. "London: printed by Mark Baskett, printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty."* This peculiar course was adopted to avoid a prosecution from persons in England who had a legal authority to print the Bible. The edition was a small one, and if any copies are extant they cannot be ascertained.

The next Bible to be mentioned is the one printed by Robert Aitken, of Philadelphia, in 1781, with the patronage and recommendation of the American Congress. From the statement now made, I think it may be justly said that this is the first American Bible in our own language. It was so understood and received at the time and the impression was soon taken up. But the peculiar value of this Bible, and that which entitles it to great distinction, is that it is *The Nation's Bible*, published by the aid and under the superintendence of the government, and by that authority recommended to the people of the United States. The proceedings of Congress on the subject, the revision and approbation of the work by the Congressional chaplains, and the recommendation of the whole under the signature of "Charles Thompson, Secretary," are given in the volume, on a leaf between the Testaments. This, so far as I know, is the only action of our national government in behalf of the Bible. But this was done at a very critical and important period, and the country obtained in return the special blessing of heaven.

After the close of the war, other editions of the Bible were printed in different forms. The first quarto or family Bible, if I am correctly informed, was by Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, in 1791. A prospectus for subscription was previously issued, fixing the price at seven dollars. This is a very good edition, and the publisher, with the same types, issued a good folio. Isaac Collins published a correct octavo edition at Trenton something earlier, I believe, than the one at Worcester, but I do not know the year. The annual publication of Bibles and Testaments in our country is now very great, and it may well be questioned whether there are as many copies of the sacred Scriptures now existing in all other languages, as there are of our common English Bible.

Messrs. Editors,—I request the favor of you to inform Mr. J. H. M'Millan, with my thanks for his communication, that if he will send to you a copy of either edition of Lower's Bible for me, (the first would be preferred,) you will pay him five dollars.

THOMAS ROBBINS.

Rochester, Mass., Aug. 3, 1844.

P. S. Would it not be well to publish a transcript of Aitken's Bible? It is in good type, strictly without note or comment.

*Thomas' History of Printing in America.

Religious Congregations in Philadelphia.—It appears, from Bywater's Philadelphia Business Directory, that there are the following number of places of religious worship in our city, viz:

Baptist Churches,	19	Methodist Protestant,	6
Christian,	1	Mariners,	3
Colored,	12	Moravian,	1
Disciples of Christ,	1	New Jerusalem,	1
Dutch Reformed,	2	Presbyterian, Old School,	15
Episcopal,	21	" New School,	12
Free Quakers,	1	" Reformed,	4
Orthodox,	4	" Associate do,	2
Hicksite,	3	" Associate,	4
Congregational,	2	" Cumberland,	1
Jewish Synagogue,	2	Roman Catholic,	13
Lutheran, German,	3	Unitarian,	1
" English,	2	Universalist,	2
Methodist Episcopal,	21		

According to this list, we have one hundred and fifty-nine congregations of Jews and Christians, Protestants and Romanists, Orthodox and Heterodox, in our city. There are eight vacant pulpits: Baptist, 2; Colored, 1; German Reformed, 1; Prot. Methodist, 1; O. S. Presbyterian, 1; N. S. Presbyterian, 1; Moravian, 1. Jan. 1848

LITHOGRAPHY.—A very pleasant entertainment was enjoyed on Saturday afternoon by a large party of gentlemen, among whom were many members of the Press, at the Lithographic establishment of Mr. Duval, in the building at the head of Ranstead Court. A table was spread by the liberal proprietor for about two hundred persons; and while awaiting the hour fixed, the guests examined the various processes of the curious and beautiful art of Lithography.

Mr. Duval has devoted much time, thought and money to the advancement of the art in this country, and has in several instances succeeded so well, especially in the art of "transferring," as to surpass the French, who have hitherto held the pre-eminence. His establishment now fills a huge room, in which are placed more than twenty presses driven by steam, an improvement, the benefit of which, we believe, he is the first to obtain. The movement of these presses is curious, but rapid and certain, and the work is of a character which reflects the highest credit upon the art. The Lithographic stones are imported from Bavaria, by Mr. Duval, and being of the finest quality, he is enabled to impart a great delicacy and finish to the drawings made upon them, and the artists he has engaged are eminently proficient.

In the arrangement of the establishment Mr. Duval has been greatly assisted by Messrs. Thompson and West. Under the guidance of Mr. Bouquin, the foreman, we inspected the various styles of Lithographic printing from the simple black to the splendid blazonry in gold and colors, which, in variety of design, perfection of impression, and harmonious blending of colors, is in all respects equal to the French.

It is but a very few years since that the art of printing several colors upon the same illustration, was exclusively possessed by the French, and the specimens sent to this country, were looked upon as costly varieties. Like the "Millefleur," the last achievement of the Bohemian glass-blowers, it was supposed that the greatest reach of the art had been obtained; but careful and often-repeated experiments have given to Lithography a new phase, and it now stands very far in advance of the specimens so much lauded not longer than five or eight years ago.

It is creditable to Philadelphia, that famed as she is, for her manufactures, she has such an establishment as this, and we are glad to know that Mr. Duval's enterprise has been so abundantly rewarded that all his means of production have been incessantly tasked.

When the examination of the establishment was completed, the Company sat down to the bounteous feast which was spread, and with Col. Page, as the presiding officer, did ample justice not only to the actualities, but the suggestions of the occasion. Several excellent speeches were made, songs sung and toasts offered, and among the latter was the following, by our townsman, Solomon W. Roberts, Esq.

The Union of Steam with the Fine Arts.—Their intermarriage, this day celebrated, will be the origin of a numerous, useful and beautiful progeny.