

Curious Bibles.

MISPRINTS and the eccentricities of translators and artists have turned many editions of the Holy Bible into valuable and interesting curiosities. The first example reproduced shows us at a glance how the

the third chapter of Genesis commences in this startling manner: "Now the *servant* was more subtile than any beast of the field," etc. Of course, it should be "serpent."

It is strange enough that such errors should creep into a work which receives more care in being set in type and going through the press than any other volume. But the greatest care, even when enhanced by the fear of punishment, has not been sufficient to prevent misprints which absolutely reverse the meaning of the most important texts.

The passage that gives the "More Sea" Bible its name is next reproduced. This is an instance of the omission of the negative (in Rev. xxi., 1). The "Judas" Bible contains a very strange typographical error—none other than the substitution of name of the betrayer for that of

The parable of the vinegar,

S. L.

chief priests and the scribes came upon him, with the elders,

2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, By what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

3 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me.

THE "VINEGAR" BIBLE.

famous "Vinegar" Bible got its name. "The Parable of the Vinegar" appears, instead of the "Parable of the Vineyard,"

CHAP. III.

531.

1 The serpent deceiveth Eve. 6 Mans shameful fall. 9 God arraigneth them. 14 The serpent is cursed. 15 The promised seed. 16 The punishment of mankind. 21 Their first clothing. 22 Their casting out of Paradise.

Now the servant was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made, and he said unto the woman, Yea hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? † Heb
Tush-
cauf, &

2. And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

THE "SERVANT" BIBLE.

in the page-heading to Luke xx. This is an Oxford edition of the authorized version, published by J. Baskett in 1717. The book was produced in costly and gorgeous style, but was so carelessly printed that it came to be known as "a Baskett-full of errors."

The "Servant" Bible comes next; it was published in 1640. Observe that the first verse of

CHAP. XXI.

8 A new heaven and a new earth. 10 The heavenly Jerusalem with a full description thereof. 23 She receiveth no sun, the glory of God is her light. 24 The kings of the earth bring their riches unto her.

AND * I saw a new heaven, and a new earth: for the first heaven, and the first earth were passed away, and there was more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven,

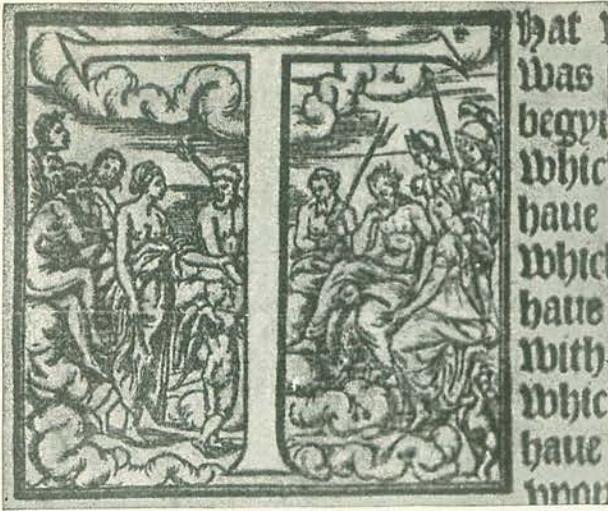
THE "MORE SEA" BIBLE.

the Saviour: "Then commeth Judas with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, 'Sit yee here, while I goe and pray yonder.'"

35 Peter said vnto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also for all the disciples.

36 C* Then commeth Judas with them vnto a place called Gethsemane, and saith vnto the disciples, Sit yee here, while I goe and pray yonder.

THE "JUDAS" BIBLE



THE "PAGAN" BIBLE.

The "Wicked" Bible, published in 1631, was so called from the omission of the important little word "not" in the rendering of the Seventh Commandment; and that the hapless printer should have been fined by Archbishop Laud the sum of £300 is only as it should be, considering the grossness of the blunder. The money, we learn, was expended on "a fount of fair Greek type," which was to render almost impossible such enormities as the above.

Published in London in 1572, the "Pagan" Bible is a real curiosity, containing as it does, at St. John, 1st Epistle, chap. i., a wood-cut of Mount Olympus and the Gods—Leda and Swan; Daphne and Apollo. This extraordinary Bible also con-

tains other scenes from the Metamorphoses. It is perfectly inconceivable how such utterly inappropriate illustrations should have been allowed a place in an edition of the Bible. It is well known, however, that two or three centuries ago the difficulties of reproducing pictures of any kind in books were so great, that one block was made to do duty, not only in several works of wholly diverse kind, but was even used over and over again in the same book.

Perhaps the rarest of all the curious Bibles is the famous "Bugge" Bible, an edition of Matthew's Bible, published in 1551. In this we read, at Psalms xci., 5, "So that thou shalt not be afrayed for anye bugges by nyghte." Coverdale's and Taverner's Bibles

- 6 So the woman (seing that the tre was good for meat; and that it was pleasant to the eyes, & a tre to be desired to get knowledge) toke of the frute thereof, and did * eat, and gaue also to her housband with her, and he f did eat.
- 7 Then the eyes of them bothe were opened, & they s knewe that they were naked, and they sewed fig tre leaues together, and made them selues "breeches.
- 8 ¶ Afterwarde they heard the voyce of a.ii.

1. Tim. 2, 14.
f Not so muche to please his wife, as moued by ambition at her persuasion.
g They began to fele their miserie, but they sought not to God for remedie

THE "BREECHES" BIBLE.

¶ He shall cover the vnder hye wynges, that thou mayste be safe vnder his fetthers: his faythfullnesse and true the shall be thy shyld and buckler.

So that thou shalt not hede to be afrayed for anye bugges by nyghte, noz for the arrow that flyeth by day.

B For the pestilence that crepeth in the darcknesse, noz for the sicknesse that destroyeth in the noone dape.

THE "BUGGE" BIBLE.

have the same word, equivalent to the modern "bogie," whom the children dread.

A perfect copy of the "Bugge" Bible recently fetched £60; whilst an admittedly imperfect copy realized £45 at Sotheby's auction rooms.

The well-known "Breeches" Bible next figures in this article. It was one of several editions produced by the Protestant exiles at Geneva, during the last year of Queen Mary's reign. In the "Breeches" Bible, Gen. iii., 7, reads: "And they sewed fig tre leaves together, and made them selues breeches."

15. **Allo he laid, Wring the baile that thou hast vpon thee, and holde it. And when she helde it, he measured sixe measures of barley, and laide it on her: and he went into the cite.**

16. **And when shee came to her mother in law, she said, who art thou, my daughter: and she tolde her all that the man had done to her.**

THE GREAT "HE" BIBLE.

Wycliffe, however, had used the word before, but Coverdale had rendered "apurns"—as he spells it.

The Great "He" Bible received its name from the passage next reproduced in facsimile, ". . . He measured five measures of barley, and laide it on her: and he went into the cite," Ruth iii., 15. Of course, it should be "she," since Ruth is meant. This Bible was Barker's folio authorized version, published in 1611. The printer corrected his error in a second edition, which is known as the Great "She" Bible.

A Bible which is now extremely scarce, and which is



Another similitude put he forth vnto them sayinge: The kyngedome of heauen is like vnto a man which sowed good feed in his feild. But whyle men slept, there came his fo, and sowed tares amonge the wheate, and went hys waye. And

THE "WOODEN-LEG" BIBLE.

**Sorowe is come vpon me / and heuynes
bereth my hert: for lo, the boyce of the criège
of my people is herde from a farre countre:
Is not the Lorde in Spon? Is not the kyng
in her: Wherfore then haue they greued me
(shall the Lorde saye) woth their ymages a
foolyth straunge talypons: The harvest
ys gone / the Sommer hath an ende / and
we are not helped. I am sore bered / because
of the hurte of my people: I am heuy and a-
bashed / for there is no more Treacle at Ga-
laad / and there ys no Physycyen / that can
heale the hurte of my people.**

THE "TREACLE" BIBLE.

increasing yearly in value, is the "Treacle" Bible, dated 1575. "There is no more balm at Gilead" (Jeremiah viii.) is a phrase we have all read or heard; but in this Bible it is rendered, "There is no more treacle at Galaad." When the horrified ecclesiastical authorities beheld these vagaries of printer and translator, they immediately suppressed the sale of the Bible containing the solecism, and gathered

in, so far as was possible, all copies that had actually been circulated. These they carefully destroyed, and hence it is that the comparatively few copies that escaped have become so valuable in the eyes of collectors and curiosity-seekers.

We have next reproduced the illustration which gave the "Wooden-Leg" Bible its peculiar name. In this picture we see the Enemy of Man sowing tares among the wheat (according to the parable), but for some inexplicable reason, Satan is represented with a wooden leg! That he should have a tail is, of course, more or less in accordance with tradition.