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ECUMENICAL LIST  
OF TRANSLATIONS  
OF THE HOLY  
SCRIPTURES

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ECUMENICAL LIST OF  
TRANSLATIONS

OF THE

HOLY SCRIPTURES

CLASSIFIED SCIENTIFICALLY ACCORDING TO  
GEOGRAPHICAL, AND LINGUISTIC, CONSIDERATIONS  
UP TO THE YEAR 1900.

COMPILED BY

ROBERT NEEDHAM CUST, LL.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

*(In his Eightieth year).*

LONDON

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

146 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET

1900

PRINTED BY  
STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS  
HERTFORD

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THIS ESSAY IS DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF MY YOUNG AND DEAR FELLOW-LABOURER,

JAMES GORDON WATT,

TO WHOM I HAD HOPED TO ENTRUST, WITH FULL CONFIDENCE,  
THE TASK OF COMPILING AN ACCURATE  
SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE TRANSLATIONS OF THE  
SCRIPTURES IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD.  
GOD HAS WILLED IT OTHERWISE, AND IN MY EIGHTIETH YEAR  
I TRY TO COMPLETE IMPERFECTLY THE TASK, WHICH  
HAS FALLEN FROM HIS DYING HAND IN  
THE THIRTY-SECOND YEAR OF HIS SHORT AND USEFUL LIFE.

—  
“He has done what he could.”

Mark, xiv, 8.

?  
cf.

London, July 23, 1900  
(The day of his death).

quotation ~~was~~  
not literal.

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“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”—*Revelation*, xiv, 6.



## INTRODUCTION.



THIS is confessedly a new departure: after the work of a Century, it is not sufficient to pick up pebbles on the sea-shore, throw them into a bag, and make an alphabetical list of the contents. Language is a Science, and has certain Laws.

The Translations are no longer exhibited in the Alphabetical order of the names of each particular Language, nor with sole reference to the Geographical position of the country, in which each Language is spoken, but classified according to the Linguistic Family or Group, to which each Language belongs. The materials available were :

- I. My own Volume on "Bible-Translations," 1890.
- II. The first "Quinquennial" Report of additional Bible-Translations, 1895, by myself and the Rev. J. Gordon Watt.
- III. "Four Hundred Tongues," by Rev. J. Gordon Watt, 1899.
- IV. "In our Tongues," by G. A. King, Esq., 1899.
- V. Historical Table in Annual Report of 1900.
- VI. Price-List of Bibles on Sale, in Annual Report of 1900.

This List is Œcumenical, of a Worldwide Development, to which History gives no parallel. The fact is stated, that such a Language is honoured with being the vehicle of God's Inspired Scriptures. The inquirer must look elsewhere to inform himself about Editions, and details of Human incidents of Publication and Distribution.

It is not pretended, that in this difficult and complicated subject we have obtained actual accuracy, but, if the present list be adopted as the approximately accurate list in 1900, and a corrected list be printed every five years, and copies circulated among Missionaries and Translators all over the World, mistakes will be pointed out; and as each new Manuscript-Translation is submitted, its exact Geographical position should be reported by the Translator, and its precise Linguistic position settled by some competent Linguistic authority, and in future the recurrence of uncertainties, double entries, misnomers, and omissions, will be guarded against.

The Holy Scriptures in their original Languages are omitted from the Ecumenical list of Translations, but appear on the Price-List of books published by the Society for the convenience of purchasers.

The reader will not find in this Essay any indication of the portions of the Scriptures, which have been translated, or any opinion expressed as to the excellence, or the contrary, of the Translation, or the name of the Translator. It is well known, that some Translations are distributed in annual thousands; of others not a dozen copies are circulated annually. Some are beautiful works of Linguistic skill; others are not so. Such matters lie outside the present enquiry. The wish is to record facts. Nothing less than a Translation of one Book of the Scriptures gains admission into this List, after it has been printed, and put into circulation, with the object of Converting a Soul.

No Serial numbers or Totals are attached to the entries in this List. The desire to increase the Total of the Translations, said to be in existence, has led to the introduction in past years of many entries, which ought never to have been admitted. There is no other Association, which can compete with the British and Foreign Bible Society in the greatness of its work of Distribution. Numbers give a false idea of the

grandeur of the enterprise. Assuming that there are about 2,000 different living Forms of Speech in the World, spoken by the 1,500 Millions, at which the population of the World is estimated, what a small proportion is 400 Translations compared to 2,000 Forms of Speech! But some of these Forms, in which we are circulating Translations, are spoken by hundreds of thousands, and some by a few thousand individuals only. All the great Vernaculars of the World have been supplied with Translations.

Then, again, as the sole object of the circulation of the Scriptures is the Salvation of the Souls of the races, who use that Form of Speech, it is a matter of indifference by what Association of good men the Translations have been made. I record in Chapter IX the names of the Associations of our brethren and fellow-labourers in this holy work, but we are at liberty to use their Translations, and they are most welcome to use ours.

Then it cannot be right to enter in our Lists of Translations, presumed to be ready for distribution, Versions written in Languages, which have long ceased to be uttered by the lips of living men, though extremely valuable to the Bible-student, and made use of by some Churches for Liturgical purposes. Still more deplorable is the appearance on our Lists of Translations, made by good men in past years, which have long since fallen out of use, and which in some cases have never been in use at all. Their names, removed from the Effective List, are now relegated to Part II, "Translations of which the Language is dead," "Translations in living Languages, but out of circulation": in fact, both Categories are Ineffective for the sole purpose, for which the Bible-Society was established, the Salvation of Souls.

A third Category includes those Translations, which have intruded themselves on our Lists, but have never been printed, or are only in course of preparation, or the pious intention

has been since abandoned. A subsidiary list might very properly be prepared of "Work in progress," in which such Translations would appear, but until a whole Book of the Scriptures has actually issued from the Press, it cannot with any respect for truth be entered on an Œcumenical List of printed Translations. I have protested many a year against this practice. There is no objection to notice of such work being made in the annual Editorial Report.

But other causes of innocent error have to be recorded.

- I. Bilingual Translations, or Versions in two Languages in parallel pages, may properly appear in the Price-List, but not in Lists intended to record the Work done. In the same way the Price-List exhibits variety of Editions in different type and sizes, and Editions for the Blind.
- II. Great care should be taken to prevent the same Translation being inserted twice under different names. Norwegian and Danish supply an instance of this. In our published Volume of Specimens the same Version of this Language appears twice.
- III. The same Translation appears sometimes in a different form of Written Character, but has no right to a double entry. The Translation in the alien Written Character should be inserted in the Price-List under the entry in the National Written Character.
- IV. If there be such a Dialectal variety of a Language, as to justify a separate Translation, as the only means of being understood by the people, such a Translation is entitled to a separate entry, but in the separate column reserved for Dialects.
- V. Some great Languages are spoken and read, and are

represented by Editions in the five portions of the World, but they can only be recorded once in their National and Geographical position.

- VI. Sometimes a Translation into the same Language has been made in different countries, where it happens to be spoken, by Missionaries of different Nationalities, unknown to each other, and perhaps called by a different name; care should be taken that only one entry is made.
- VII. Sometimes Translations have been made from a different Text of the original Scripture, or from some Translation in an European Language. This will lead to some confusion, as Native Converts will not understand the reason of the difference: but it cannot be helped; only let not such Translations be supposed to represent a separate Language.
- VIII. Another class of Translations has to be rejected, such as are made or collected by private individuals for their own pleasure, and not for the Salvation of Souls. Such are the late Prince Buonaparte's specimens, and a Translation of a Gospel in Broad Scotch published this year. Translations in spoken Patois are coming into existence. It will be a question of sound judgment in each case. Are Souls brought to God by such Translations? Will existing Translations of the same Mother-Tongue, and its Dialect, not meet the legitimate requirements of the seekers after God?

Great confusion has arisen from giving inaccurate names to Languages, which have emerged from the deep Unknown in the form of a Translation, the work of a single-handed and single-Language Missionary far away from scientific help in

the great work of transferring the immortal creations of Divine Thought from one vehicle of Human speech to another. He is sure to Anglicize, if an Englishman, the newly discovered name, or to transfer it to English with the unnecessary Prefixes or Suffixes of the Native Language, into which he is translating. Such error has been avoided in British India, for the Secular Government fixes the orthography, which has been accepted by the Bible-Societies in most cases. Thus we have Hindi, Urdu, Marāthi, etc., and Tamil, Telugū, Gond, Khond, etc., in their purity: the only two exceptions are Kanarese instead of Kānnada, and Cinghalese instead of Sinhāli. In Malaysia, the Extreme Orient, and Oceania, we generally find some form of Anglican suffix, e.g., Java-*nese*, Chin-*ese*, Japan-*ese*, Samoa-*n*, Fiji-*an*, etc. Some have kept their purity, as Mauri, Mota, Flōrida. In Africa the early Missionaries persisted in retaining in their Reports the Prefixes, e.g., Ki-Swahili, Ki-Yao, Lu-Ganda, but gradually these excrescences are disappearing. I have waged unceasing war against this in all my writings. In Russia every language is honoured by the suffix 'skoi' after it, and in German Lists there is a liberal supply of 'vich.'

Orthography is the next difficulty, and apparently a hopeless one. The Roman Alphabet has been so transformed by different Translators, that names can barely be recognized. In the nomenclature and orthography adopted by me during the last twenty years of publishing Volumes or Languages on India, Africa, Oceania, and Caucasia, I may be wrong, but I am at least consistent, and, when I look down Lists compiled as far back as 1878, I find rarely reason for change.

In the matter of spelling proper names, and expressing the stress-accent, which is so important for the pronunciation, I have consulted with Mr. Henry Morris. We have both been members of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, where

this subject was threshed out, and Scientific Rules laid down. I do hope, that the Bible-Society will accept this, or some other system, of writing names, and enforce it on all subordinates. We shall get into terrible trouble next Century, if we have not one consistent system.

It is essential, that every five years a Quinquennial list of new Translations should be compiled. I have done this with the help of Mr. Watt for 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and I am compiling my second Quinquennial for 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900 with the help of Mr. King, and it will appear in 1901. The Œcumenical List, if published in a corrected form in 1905, and 1910, and so on, will supply all that is wanted. The contribution made by Mr. Watt last year of his Bible-House Paper, "Four Hundred Tongues," is very important, and Mr. King's second issue of his Pamphlet, "In our Tongues," comprising the work of the last quarter of a Century, 1875-1899, is most useful: it covers the exact period, during which I have laboured for the Society, and I have been saved many weary hours by referring to its pages. Of course Lists of this kind, prepared by each one of us, require to be renewed after every lustrum, but we are leaving a solid foundation for future erections.

The whole subject of the Written Characters in different parts of the World, to which the Scriptures have been entrusted, requires looking into, as it is clearly in an unsatisfactory state. I have briefly noticed the chief forms, which appear in our Specimen-Book, but the list is incomplete. In the Specimen-Book the name of the Language is given, but the name of the Written Character should also be stated. If my life be spared, I will return to this subject at a future period.

I refer to page 34 of my lately published Essay, on the "Requirements of the Bible Society," for the purpose of

enforcing another point. If only we could collect in one Revolving Bookcase in the Bible-House-Library specimens of every Translation, which we print and circulate, arranged in the order of this List, the whole subject would then become clear to those, who are interested in the work, and mistakes and omissions would be detected. As it is, we all seem to work in the dark.

Another point is, that we really must omit from all Lists the words "Vernacular" and "Colloquial," attached to all Chinese Translations, except the Wen Li and Mandarin. Surely India has a great number of Translations, but they are not called "Vernaculars" any more than every individual is called "a man." Their very existence proves this, and there is nothing exceptional in Chinese Bible Work that justifies the present practice. I have discontinued it in my Lists. Our "Effective" Translations are all in the Vernaculars of the particular region, where they are spoken.

It is desirable that the Report of our work done, and the phraseology used, should be such as is adopted by Scientific Associations, as our Society promotes the greatest of Human Sciences: "the Knowledge of the Lord, which shall cover the Earth as the waters cover the Sea."

The preparation of the Language-Map, and the new Editions of the Specimen-Verses, will be a laborious undertaking, but, when they appear, they will greatly elucidate this List, and make the subject intelligible to all, who are interested.

No one will sit in severer judgment on this work than the compiler, because he knows the weak points, and his sole object is to advance the cause of Religion and Language, which have been the two subjects of his Life-Study, and both are united in the work of the Bible-Society. I have provided three blank pages to enter corrections. As the ground trodden is entirely new, and nothing like the



Bible - Translation - Work of the Nineteenth Century ever existed, there is room for difference of opinion in detail, and plenty of room for errors. As time goes on, all errors will be rectified. If a Translator in Oceania proves beyond reasonable doubt, that the name of his Language has been incorrectly spelt, the Editorial Committee will no doubt correct the error. If we lay down a sound basis, there will be no difficulty in recording rationally the two or three hundred Languages, which are waiting for Translation in the coming Century. An Alphabetical Index by itself is of no use, when we are dealing with hundreds of items, though useful as an Index at the end of a Scientific Catalogue. The new Specimen-Verse-Book of each Translation, and the Translation-Map of the World, will harmonize with the Œcumenical List of Translations now proposed. A copy of the first proof of this Essay was sent to no less than seventeen different addresses, begging for suggestions and corrections. Some valuable replies have been received, but the subject is not one, which can be taken up on the spur of the moment, by men occupied in other business.

Looking into the Future, and in our great work we are building for Eternity, we must recollect, that Languages come into existence, live, and die like the leaves of the Forest, and the families of Mankind. The great Giants of the Centuries preceding the Christian Era are dead. Some now in use are moribund, and bear the signs of death upon them. And, again, there is a new crop of young Languages coming into existence; a Patois growing into a literary Dialect; a Dialect becoming an independent Language, but still retaining traces of the great cultivated European Language, and the uncultured Native Language, from the union of which it is formed. Similarly, Written Characters are modifying with the progress of the age, and the modes of spelling. The Bible-Society has to be ready to distribute the Scriptures

in such a form, as each Epoch of the History of a Nation or tribe requires, and if the result of the past Century of Translation be faithfully recorded, accompanied by a Revised Edition of "The Bible in Every Land," brought up to the close of the Nineteenth Century, it will be ready for any contingency, *but not otherwise*.

I find it necessary to go to Press without being satisfied, that I have not omitted some Translations, made by other Associations, or Missionary Societies, in Europe or America, no copies of which have reached the British and Foreign Bible Society. I have done my best to keep this Œcumenical List clear of false and deceptive entries. I quite understand, that on our Price-Lists only the books are entered which were actually on sale. But in our so-called "Historical" List there was no certainty, as to the introduction of a Translation made by another Association without the assistance of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Now the List which I circulate is "Œcumenical," because it relates to the whole habitable World. Our Lord is reported to have said (Matthew, xxiv, 14), "*Καὶ κηρυχθήσεται τοῦτο τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ,*" and Bible Translation is one of the most certain and lasting methods of obeying this Command of our Lord. And it matters not by whose hand the Translation is made.

The safest way is therefore to go to the Press with this List, and send a copy when printed to every Association, or Missionary Society, and implore them to send the name of any Languages of which Translations have been made, printed, or circulated for the Salvation of Souls, and, if possible, a copy to the British and Foreign Bible House. This list can be published as an addendum.

# The Holy Scriptures

IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGES.

---

“Ἐρευνάτε τὰς Γράφας.”

*Gospel of John, v, 39.*

---

## “DIVINA BIBLIOTHEKA.”

BOOKS COMPOSED AT DIFFERENT PERIODS DURING

THE CENTURIES WHICH ELAPSED BETWEEN

1400 B.C. AND 100 A.D.

- (1) HEBREW, with portions in Aramaic.
- (2) GREEK.

# Translations of the Holy Scriptures.



## A. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

- I. **EUROPE.**
- II. **ASIA.**
- III. **AFRICA.**
- IV. **AMERICA.**
- V. **OCEANIA.**

## B. LINGUISTIC CLASSIFICATION.

**On Scientific Principles, under the following conditions for insertion :**

- (1) **Not less than one Book,**
- (2) **in Print,**
- (3) **in Circulation,**
- (4) **and Effective for the Salvation of Souls.**

## PART I. EFFECTIVE.



### (1) EUROPEAN LANGUAGES.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. ARYAN FAMILY.<br><br>I. Kelt Branch.<br>II. Teuton Branch.<br>III. Lithuanic Branch.<br>IV. Slav Branch.<br>V. Græco-Latin Branch. | B. SEMITIC FAMILY.<br><br>C. URAL-ALTAIC FAMILY.<br>I. Finn Branch.<br>II. Turki Branch.<br><br>D. ISOLATED LANGUAGES. |
|---|--|

### (2) ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. SEMITIC FAMILY.<br><br>B. URAL-ALTAIC FAMILY.<br><br>I. Finn Branch.<br>II. Turki Branch.<br>III. Mongol Branch.<br>IV. Tungus Branch.<br><br>C. CAUCASUS GROUP.<br><br>D. ARYAN FAMILY.<br><br>I. Græco-Latin Branch.<br>II. Iranic Branch.<br>III. Indic Branch. | E. NON-ARYAN GROUP.<br>I. Dravidian Sub-Group.<br>II. Kolarian Sub-Group.<br>III. Tibeto-Burman Sub-Group.<br>IV. Isolated Language.<br><br>F. INDO-CHINA GROUP.<br>I. Tai Family.<br>II. Mon-Anam Family.<br><br>G. MALAYAN GROUP.<br><br>H. CHINA GROUP.<br><br>I. EXTREME ORIENT GROUP. |
|---|--|

## (3) AFRICAN LANGUAGES.

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| A. SEMITIC FAMILY.   | E. BANTU FAMILY.    |
| B. HAMITIC GROUP.    | F. HOTTENTOT GROUP. |
| C. NUBA-FULAH GROUP. | G. MALAYAN FAMILY.  |
| D. NEGRO GROUP.      | H. ARYAN FAMILY.    |

## (4) AMERICAN LANGUAGES.

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| A. NORTH REGION.        | B. SOUTH REGION. |
| I. ARCTIC COAST.        |                  |
| II. PACIFIC COAST.      |                  |
| III. CENTRAL PROVINCES. |                  |

## (5) OCEANIC LANGUAGES.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. POLYNESIA. | C. MIKRONESIA. |
| B. MELANESIA. | D. AUSTRALIA.  |

## EUROPEAN.

### A. ARYAN FAMILY.

#### I. KELT BRANCH :

1. Breton.
2. Erse or Irish.
3. Gaelic or Scotch.
4. Manx.
5. Welsh.

#### II. TEUTON BRANCH :

1. Dutch.
2. English.
3. Flemish.
4. Fris (Friesland).
5. German.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Yeddish.
6. Icelandic.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Faroe Is.
7. Norwego-Danish.
8. Swedish.

#### III. LITHUANIC BRANCH :

1. Lett (Russia).  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Liv.
2. Lithu (Germany and Russia).  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Samogit.

#### IV. SLAV BRANCH :

1. Bohemian or Czech.
2. Bulgār.  
Dialect (*a*) East.  
(*b*) West.
3. Kroat or Serb.
4. Palityan.
5. Polish.
6. Russ.
7. Ruthën.
8. Slovak (Austria).
9. Slovën „
10. Wend.  
Dialect (*a*) Upper.  
(*b*) Lower.  
(*c*) Hungarian  
or  
Old Slovën.

#### V. GRÆCO-LATIN BRANCH :

1. French.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Vaudois.  
(*c*) Provençal.
2. Greek, Modern or Romaic.
3. Italian.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Piedmont.  
(*c*) Sard.
4. Portu uese.

5. Romanch (Switzerland).  
Dialect (*a*) Upper.  
      (*b*) Lower.  
      (*c*) Oberland.
6. Roumân.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
      (*b*) Macedon.
7. Spanish.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
      (*b*) Catalan.  
      (*c*) Judæo.

## B. SEMITIC FAMILY.

- Arabic.  
Dialect, Malta.

## C. URAL-ALTAIC FAMILY.

### I. FINN BRANCH :

1. Cheremisi.
2. Elst.  
Dialect (*a*) Reväl.  
      (*b*) Dorpat.
3. Finn.
4. Karel (Russia).
5. Lapp.  
Dialect (*a*) Norse.  
      (*b*) Swedish.  
      (*c*) Russ.

6. Magyar or Hungarian.
7. Mordwin (Russia).  
Dialect (*a*) Ersä.  
      (*b*) Moksha.
8. Perm (Russia).
9. Siryin or Zir (Russia).
10. Votyak (Russia).

### II. TURKI BRANCH :

1. Chuvash.
2. Kazak-Kirghiz.
3. Kazan.
4. Nogai or Karäss.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
      (*b*) Krim.
5. Osmanli.

### D. ISOLATED LANGUAGES.

1. Albanian.  
Dialect (*a*) Gheg.  
      (*b*) Tosk.
2. Basque.  
Dialect (*a*) French.  
      (*b*) Guiposcoa.  
      (*c*) Spanish.
3. Gitáno.



# ASIATIC.

## A. SEMITIC FAMILY.

1. Arabic.
2. Syriac.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Syro-Chaldaic.  
(*c*) Carshon.

## B. URAL-ALTAIC FAMILY.

### I. FINN BRANCH :

1. Ostyak (Russia).
2. Vogul (Siberia).

### II. TURKI BRANCH :

1. Kirghīz, Northern or Kara.
2. Kirghīz, Southern or Altai.
3. Azerbijāni or Trans-Caucasian.
4. Jāgatai or Trans-Caspian or Tekke Turcoman.
5. Kashgar-Turki.
6. Uzbek-Turki.
7. Yākūt (Siberia).
8. Kūmuk-Turki.

### III. MONGOL BRANCH :

- Mongol.
- Dialect (*a*) Literary.  
(*b*) Buriat.  
(*c*) Kalmuk.  
(*d*) Khalka.

### IV. TUNGUS BRANCH :

Manchu.

### C. CAUCASUS GROUP.

Georgian.

### D. ARYAN FAMILY.

### I. GRÆCO-LATIN BRANCH :

1. Portuguese.  
Dialect Indo-Ceylon.
2. Spanish.  
Dialect Cūracoa  
(W. Indies).

### II. IRĀNIC BRANCH :

1. Armenian.  
Dialect (*a*) Literary.  
(*b*) West.  
(*c*) East or Ararat.
2. Balūchi.
3. Kurd.
4. Ossēt (Caucasus).
5. Pushtu or Afghan.
6. Persian.

### III. INDIC BRANCH :

1. Asāmi.
2. Bangāli.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Mahometan.
3. Gujarāti.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Parsi.

## 4. Hindi.

Dialect (a) Standard.

(b) Dākhami.

(c) Marwāri.

(d) Guhrwāli.

(e) Jaunsāri.

(f) Urdu or  
Hindustāni.

(g) Kumāoni.

## 5. Kashmiri.

## 6. Kortha.

## 7. Māghadi.

## 8. Marāthi.

Dialect (a) Standard.

(b) Kōnkani.

## 9. Nepāli or Pārbati.

## 10. Panjābi.

Dialect (a) Standard.

(b) Dogri.

(c) Chambāli.

(d) Multāni or  
Derwal.

## 11. Sindhi.

Dialect (a) Standard.

(b) Katchi.

## 12. Sinhāli or Cinghalese.

## 13. Oriyā.

## E. NON-ARYAN GROUP.

## I. DRAVIDIAN SUB-GROUP :

## 1. Gond.

## 2. Kānnada or Kānarese.

Dialect (a) Standard.

(b) Bādaga.

## 3. Koi.

## 4. Malayālam.

## 5. Malto or Rājmahāli or

Pahāri or Māler.

## 6. Urāon or Kurukh.

## 7. Tamil.

## 8. Telugū.

## 9. Toda.

## 10. Tulu.

## II. KOLARIAN SUB-GROUP :

## 1. Khond.

## 2. Kurku.

## 3. Mandāri or Kōl.

## 4. Santāl.

III. TIBETO-BURMAN SUB-  
GROUP :

## 1. Angāmi.

## 2. Barma.

## 3. Garo (Assam).

## 4. Kachin (Barma).

## 5. Kāren (Barma).

Dialect (a) Bghai.

(b) Sgau.

(c) Pwo.

## 6. Lepcha (Assam).

## 7. Lushāi (Assam).

## 8. Manipūr (Assam).

## 9. Tibet.

## IV. ISOLATED LANGUAGE :

Khāsi.

## F. INDO-CHINA GROUP.

## I. TAI FAMILY :

## 1. Shan (Barma).

## 2. Laos (Siam).

## 3. Siam.

## II. MON-ANAM FAMILY :

1. Pegu or Mon or Talain  
(Barma).
2. Anam.
3. Cambodia (Cochin-  
China).

## G. MALĀYAN GROUP.

1. Alfuor (Celebes I.).
2. Batta (Sumātra I.).  
Dialect (*a*) Tōba.  
(*b*) Mandailing.  
(*c*) Angkōla.
3. Bicol (Philippine Is.).
4. Bisāyan.
5. Bugi (Celebes I.).
6. Dyak (Borneo I.).  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Sea.
7. Formōsa.
8. Ilocāno (Philippine Is.).
9. Java I.
10. Macassar (Celebes I.).
11. Mādura I.
12. Malay.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Low.  
(*c*) Samarang.
13. Nias I.
14. Nicobār I.
15. Pangāsīnan  
(Philippine Is.).
16. Rottei.
17. Rōtuma I.

18. Sangir I.
19. Sunda I. (W. Java).
20. Tāgalog (Philippine Is.).

## H. CHINA GROUP.

1. Amoy.
2. Fuhchau.
3. Hainan.
4. Hakka.
5. Hangchau.
6. Hinghua.
7. Kienning.
8. Kienyang.
9. Kinhwa.
10. Kwangtung, or Canton,  
or Puntí.
11. Mandarin.  
Dialect (*a*) Peking.  
(*b*) Nanking.  
(*c*) Shantung.
12. Ningpo.
13. Shanghai.
14. Suchau.
15. Swatow or Chauchau.
16. Taichau.
17. Wenchau.
18. Wenli.  
Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Easy.

I. EXTREME ORIENT  
GROUP.

1. Ainū (Japan).
2. Japan.
3. Korēa.
4. Luchu I.

## AFRICAN.

### A. SEMITIC FAMILY.

1. Amhâric.
2. Arabic.  
Dialect (*a*) Mâghrabi or  
Western.  
(*b*) Tunisian.
3. Tigrê.

### B. HAMITIC GROUP.

1. Berber (Algeria).
2. Bilin or Bogos  
(Abyssinia).
3. Falâsha Kara (Abyssinia).
4. Galla, East.  
Dialect (*a*) Central.  
(*b*) Ittu.  
(*c*) Bararetta.
5. Kabâil (Algeria).
6. Shilha.  
Dialect, Riff.
7. Sus (Morocco).

### C. NUBA-FULAH GROUP.

Nuba.

### D. NEGRO GROUP.

1. Akrâ or Gâ (West).
2. Akûnakûna (Old  
Calabar).

3. Ashanti or Otshi.  
Dialect (*a*) Akwapēm.  
(*b*) Fânti.
4. Bullom (Sierra Leone).
5. Efîk (Old Calabar).
6. Ewê (Gold Coast).  
Dialect (*a*) Anlo.  
(*b*) Popo.
7. Grebo (West).
8. Ibo.  
Dialect (*a*) Niger.  
(*b*) Isoâma.  
(*c*) Qua Ibo.
9. Hausa (Sūdân).
10. Ibibio or Qua Ibo.
11. Idzo or Ijo (R. Niger).
12. Igâra.
13. Igbîra (R. Niger).
14. Jolof or Wolof  
(R. Gambia).
15. Kuranko (Sūdân).
16. Mandingo (R. Gambia).
17. Mende (Sierra Leone).
18. Nupê (R. Niger).
19. Susu (West Coast).
20. Temne (Sierra Leone).
21. Umon (Old Calabar).
22. Yâriba (Lagos West).

## E. BANTU FAMILY.

1. Bangāla or Bolōki  
(R. Kongo).
2. Bangi (R. Kongo).
3. Benga (R. Gabūn).
4. Bolengi (R. Kongo).
5. Bondei (East).
6. Bulu (R. Gabūn).
7. Chagga (East).
8. Chuāna (South).  
Dialect (*a*) Setlāpi.  
(*b*) Sērolong.
9. Dualla (Kamerūn).
10. Fang or Fan (R. Gabūn).
11. Ganda (Central).
12. Giriāma (Central).
13. Gogo (Central).
14. Gwamba (Delagoa Bay).  
Dialect (*a*) Thonga.  
(*b*) Ronga.
15. Hērero (West).
16. Isubū (Kamerun).
17. Kāgūru (East).
18. Kamba (East).
19. Kele (R. Kongo).
20. Kongo (R. Kongo).
21. Kuanyāma  
(Ovampoland).
22. Lolo or Mengo  
(R. Kongo).
23. Makūa (Mozambique).
24. Mambwe  
(L. Tanganyika).
25. Mbundu (Angōla).
26. Mpongwe or Pongwe  
(R. Gabūn).
27. Mwamba (L. Nyasa).
28. Ndonga or Ovampo  
(South).
29. Nganga (R. Shirē).
30. Ngoni (L. Nyasa).
31. Nkondi or Kondi  
(L. Nyasa).
32. Nsembe (R. Kongo).
33. Nyamwōsi (East).
34. Nyānja (R. Shirē).
35. Nyāsa (L. Nyasa).
36. Nyika (East).
37. Pedi (Transvaal).
38. Pokōmo (R. Tana, East).
39. Poto (R. Kongo).
40. Sagalla (East).
41. Sena (R. Zambēzi).
42. Shambāla (East).
43. Shitswa (Zulu).
44. Shona (Ma-Shona-land).
45. Soga (East).
46. Sukūma (East).
47. Suto (Ba-Suto-land).
48. Swāhili.  
Dialect (*a*) Zanzibār.  
(*b*) Mombāsa.
49. Tabēle  
(Ma-Tabēle-land).
50. Tavēta.
51. Tekē (R. Kongo).
52. Tonga (L. Nyasa).
53. Toro (Central).
54. Xosa or Kafir.
55. Yao.
56. Zulu.

## F. HOTTENTOT GROUP.

Nama or Khoikhoi.

## G. MALĀYAN FAMILY.

Malagāsi (Mauritius I.).

## H. ARYAN FAMILY.

## 1. Dutch.

Dialect, Cape.

## 2. French.

Dialect, Mauritius-  
Creole.

# AMERICAN.

## A. NORTH REGION.

### I. ARCTIC COAST :

1. Aliout (Alaska).
2. Eskimo.  
Dialect (*a*) Greenland.  
      (*b*) Lābrador.
3. Tukudh (Canada).

### II. PACIFIC COAST :

1. Haida (Columbia).
2. Kwāgutl (Vancouver I.).
3. Zimshi (Columbia).

### III. CENTRAL PROVINCES :

1. Beaver (Canada).
2. Blackfoot (Canada).
3. Chēroki  
(United States).
4. Chipewān (Canada).
5. Choktau  
(United States).
6. Dakōta or Sioux  
(United States).
7. Dēlaware  
(United States).
8. Dutch (W. Indies).  
Dialect, Creole.
9. English (Surinām).  
Dialect, Negro.
10. French (W. Indies).  
Dialect, Dominica.
11. Īroquois (Canada).

### 12. Kri.

Dialect (*a*) Hudson's  
Bay.

(*b*) Mūsōni.

### 13. Malisit

(New Brunswick).

### 14. Mikmak (Nova Scotia).

Dialect (*a*) Standard.  
(*b*) Abenāqui.

### 15. Mohawk (Canada).

### 16. Muskōki (Creek, United States).

### 17. Nez Perces (United States).

### 18. Ojibwa or Saulteaux (Canada).

### 19. Sēneka (United States).

### 20. Tinnē or Slavē (Canada).

## B. SOUTH REGION.

### 1. Acawoio (British Guinea).

### 2. Aimāra.

### 3. Akkaway.

### 4. Ārawak.

### 5. Gūarani.

### 6. Karīb (Hondūras).

### 7. Maya.

### 8. Mexican or Aztek or Nahuatl.

### 9. Moskīto.

### 10. Quchkī or Catchiquel.

### 11. Quichūa.

### 12. Yāhgān (Tierra del Fuego).

## OCEANIC.

### A. POLYNESIA.

1. Hawāii (Sandwich Is.).
2. Mauri (New Zealand).
3. Marquēsas.
4. Niue (Friendly Is.).
5. Rarotonga (Harvey Is.).
6. Samōa.
7. Tāhiti.
8. Tonga (Friendly Is.).

### B. MELANESIA.

1. Aneityum (New Hebrides).
2. Anīwa (New Hebrides).
3. Api or Epi or Baki (New Hebrides).
4. Bierian (New Hebrides).
5. Dobu (New Guinea).
6. Eromanga (New Hebrides).
7. Fanting (New Hebrides).
8. Fate (New Hebrides).  
Dialect (a) Erakar.  
(b) Havannah.
9. Fiji Is.
10. Flōrīda (Solomon Is.).
11. Fūtuna (New Hebrides).
12. Isabel or Bogōtu (Solomon Is.).
13. Keapāra (New Guinea).
14. Lifu (Loyalty Is.).
15. Mallikōlo (New Hebrides).  
Dialect (a) Ūripir.  
(b) Aulūa.  
(c) Pangkūma.
16. Malo (New Hebrides).
17. Mare or Nengōne (Loyalty Is.).
18. Morray I. or Mer (Torres St.).
19. Mota (New Hebrides).
20. Motu (New Guinea).
21. New Britain I. (New Guinea).
22. Nguna (New Hebrides).
23. Panaieti (New Guinea).
24. Ranon (New Hebrides).
25. Rōtuma.
26. Saibai or Mabuiag (Torres St.).
27. Suau (New Guinea).
28. Tanna (New Hebrides).  
Dialect (a) Kwaméra.  
(b) Weasisi.  
(c) Lānakel.
29. Tāsiko (New Hebrides).
30. Tawāra (New Guinea).
31. Torres (Melanesia).
32. Ulāwa (Solomon Is.).
33. Uvea (Loyalty Is.).
34. Wedau (New Guinea).



35. Duke of York's Is.  
(New Guinea).

C. MIKRONESIA.

1. Ebon (Marshall Is.).  
2. Gilbert I.  
3. Kusaie (Caroline Is.).

4. Mortlock (Caroline Is.).  
5. Ponapē (Caroline Is.).  
6. Ruk (Caroline Is.).

D. AUSTRALIA.

Dieri.

## PART II. INEFFECTIVE.

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### Translations in Dead Languages.

#### A. EUROPE.

1. Greek (Septuagint).
2. Latin.
3. Slavonic.

#### B. ASIA.

1. Armenian (Ancient).
2. Pāli.
3. Sanskrit.
4. Syriac (Peshito).

#### C. AFRICA.

1. Ethiopic or Giz.
2. Koptic.

#### D. AMERICA.

None.

#### E. OCEANIA.

None.

### Translations obsolete: printed but not in circulation.

#### A. EUROPE.

#### B. ASIA.

1. Bhatnīri (India).
2. Bikanīri (India).
3. Braj (India).
4. Bundelkundi (India).
5. Harouti (India).
6. Jayapūri (India).
7. Kanauji (India).
8. Katchi (India).
9. Kausāli (India).
10. Kumāyoni (India).

11. Oujāini (India).
12. Oudipūri (India).
13. Palpa (India).

#### C. AFRICA.

None.

#### D. AMERICA.

1. Danish (Creole-Negro).
2. Indian (United States), Eliot.

#### E. OCEANIA.

Narrinyēri (Australia).

## Varieties of Written Character in use.

### A. IDEOGRAPHIC.

Asia : (1) Chinese, (2) Japanese, (3) Korea.

### B. ALPHABETIC.

#### I. EUROPE.

- |               |  |                   |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
| 1. Greek.     |  | 5. Russian.       |
| 2. Roman.     |  | 6. Gaelic.        |
| 3. German.    |  | 7. Erse or Irish. |
| 4. Bulgarian. |  | 8. Lett.          |

#### II. ASIA.

- |                        |  |                     |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Arabic.             |  | 12. Old Hebrew.     |
| 2. Armenian.           |  | 13. Modi (Marāthi). |
| 3. Nāgari (Kaiti).     |  | 14. Georgian.       |
| 4. Bengāli.            |  | 15. Gujarāti.       |
| 5. Telugu (Kanarese).  |  | 16. Gurmūkhi.       |
| 6. Tamil.              |  | 17. Java.           |
| 7. Syriac (Nestorian). |  | 18. Pāli.           |
| 8. Syriac (Carshuni).  |  | 19. Siam.           |
| 9. Thakri (Chamba).    |  | 20. Bugi.           |
| 10. Malay.             |  | 21. Batta.          |
| 11. Hebrew (Square).   |  | 22. Tibetan.        |

#### III. AFRICA.

- |            |  |            |
|------------|--|------------|
| 1. Amhāric |  | 2. Koptic. |
|------------|--|------------|

#### IV. AMERICA.

Yahgān (Tierra del Fuego).

### C. SYLLABIC.

Kri (N. America).

## Chief Associations

FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE HOLY  
SCRIPTURES IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGES,  
AND IN TRANSLATIONS.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. British and Foreign Bible-Society.         | 5. Netherlands Bible-Society.          |
| 2. American Bible-Society.                    | 6. Russian Bible-Society.              |
| 3. National Bible-Society of Scotland.        | 7. English Baptist Missionary Society. |
| 4. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. | 8. American Baptist Missionary Union.  |
|   | 9. Religious Tract Society.            |

N.B.—*The following Societies used to print and distribute the Scriptures, but their labours in that direction are now limited, or have ceased altogether.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Church Missionary Society.          | 6. Universities Mission to East Equatorial Africa. |
| 2. Moravian Missionary Society.        | 7. Swedish Missionary Society.                     |
| 3. Canada Presbyterian Society.        | 8. Mission of Canton de Vaud.                      |
| 4. Mission of Free Church of Scotland. | 9. Melanesia Mission.                              |
| 5. American Board of Foreign Missions. | 10. Danish Bible-Society.                          |
|  | 11. Montreal Society.                              |
|  | 12. London Missionary Society.                     |

1901.

**DELEND.**

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1901.

**ADDENDA.**

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1901.

**CORRIGENDA.**

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[POSTSCRIPT.]

## The Philosophy of Bible-Translation and Distribution.



THIS Essay is published with the consent of the British and Foreign Bible Society : these last remarks are added on my sole responsibility. I have loved the Society and its object so well, and for so long, that I must be permitted to record my final opinion, in my eightieth year, on certain scientific points.

Much as we venerate the Holy Scriptures, we must admit, that the external form, in which they have appeared to Mankind, has been subject, like other Books, to the vicissitudes of Human Life. The Roman Catholic Priests are able to burn thousands of the Holy Volumes, as if the printed matter were the merest trash. Let us trace the Human history of the Scriptures from the place and time, when the first words were uttered, and written.

Fifteen hundred years before the Christian Era, in the Desert of Sinai, in Arabia, Moses wrote the Ten Commandments on two Tables of stone : it may be presumed, that the remainder of his writings were on Papyrus, or Parchment, or Skins. The question arises : in what form of Written Character were they both written ?

The Tables of stone were placed in the Ark of the Covenant, and found their way, after the lapse of Centuries, into the Temple of Solomon. At the time of the Babylonian

Captivity they disappeared : no mention is made of them amidst the spoil taken to Babylon, or amidst the salvage brought back. Had they survived to the Christian Era, the question of the form of Written Character used in these Tables would have been solved. Inscriptions on stones, and other metal, of a much older date than that of the Exodus have been found, and interpreted. Moreover, in II Maccabees, ii, 5, we read, that Jeremiah the Prophet took the Ark to Mount Sinai and placed it in a cave *there*, but the precise spot was unknown. The discovery of this deposit is one of the hopes of the Future, and quite within the sphere of Possibilities.

The next consideration is, what could have been the Written Character? Now it is a fact beyond dispute, that the Ideographic Written Character of Egypt, and the Cuneiform Written Character of Mesopotamia, had been in existence at dates Centuries anterior to the Exodus, and were made use of in the Regions lying between those two great countries, notably Arabia and Syria. It may be assumed, then, that Moses, who "was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" (Acts, vii, 22), could make use of, and did make use of, the form of script, with which he was familiar in Egypt.

We have reason to be sure, that no Alphabetic Form of Writing came into existence until many Centuries later : we have no proof positive of its existence until the time of King Ahab, as evidenced by the Moabite Stone.

At any rate, the early Books of the Old Testament must at some unknown date have been transferred to the Alphabetic Written Character, which was freely used from the time of the earliest of the Prophets, 800 B.C.

But in the second Century before the Christian Era another change took place in the Written Character of the Holy Scriptures, for the well-known square Alphabetic Character was then introduced to the supersession of the

old Alphabetic Character, of which a specimen still survives in the so-called Samaritan Pentateuch. When we see in our places of Worship a statue of Moses holding up Two Tables with the Ten Commandments in the square Hebrew Character, it is to be regretted as contrary to fact.

In the year of our Lord's Crucifixion the Old Testament existed in the Hebrew Language and the square Hebrew Character, and there was a *Copy* of the Pentateuch in Samaria in the old Hebrew Character, and a *Translation* of the Old Testament in the Greek Language and Character. On the Cross our Lord quoted Psalm xxii, 1, from a Targum in the Aramaic Language. The reading of the Holy Scriptures in the Synagogue was accompanied by a Targum, or Translation, in the Aramaic Vernacular, as the Hebrew Language had died out of the lips of men during the Exile at Babylon.

Another solemn consideration suggests itself. It was not the will of God, that in the pre-Christian Centuries a copy of the Old Testament in the Greek Septuagint should find its way into the Schools of Greek Philosophy at Athens, or fall under the eyes of the great Scholars and Statesmen at Rome.

But what about the circulation among the Jews of Palestine, and the Diaspora, and the Proselytes? Allusion is made to "Moses being read every Sabbath" (Acts, xv, 21). It is a notable fact that the Eunuch of Ethiopia, as he sat in his chariot, read the Scriptures, which Philip the Deacon explained to him. This was most probably a copy of the Septuagint that he had brought from Egypt, from which book also are borrowed many of the quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament, the earliest book of which did not come into existence until some years later. The science of Language was practically unknown in Syria. The great Latin Language, even in the days of the Emperor Tiberius, is

not alluded to. Reading and writing are alluded to as mere functions of Nature, like eating, and drinking, and speaking.

But what about the Geographical knowledge of that period, the other feature of this Essay? Luke, the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, was not a narrow-minded Hebrew, who had never left Jerusalem; he was a Gentile, a man of a certain amount of Science as a Physician. He had travelled with Paul over Greece, and was with him at Rome (II Timothy, iv, 11), and yet he writes Acts, ii, 5 :

“ And there were *dwelling* at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, *out of every nation under heaven.*”

(*ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους Τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν Οὐρανόν.*)

And in verses 9-11 he enumerates them: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, Judæa, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia (Minor), Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Cyrene (Libya), Rome, Crete, and Arabia.

In the Language Map of the World published in our Report for the current year, the whole Region indicated by Luke as “ Nations under Heaven,” can be pretty well covered by a crown-piece, and a great space remains beyond these totally unknown. This has been the heritage of Mankind in subsequent Centuries. The Translations of the Holy Scriptures, enlarged by the New Testament, have risen from the solitary Septuagint to a number not falling far short of four hundred, and the World in its utmost physical expanse has become their Field. We have much for which to be thankful: we are only God's instruments for the Salvation of Souls. If we have done well hitherto, we must take courage, and the end of the Twentieth Century will record a further advancement.

There is much more to be done.

(1) Attention has to be paid to the form of Written Character used. It is not wise nor kind to force the Roman

Alphabet on a great Nation, as we have done in China : we should not have liked to have had the Arabic, or Nāgari Character forced upon us. It is mere folly to invent a new Alphabet, as in South America, or to introduce Syllabaries, as in North America.

(2) A concordat should be established with all Associations, which print any portions of the Holy Scriptures to supply each other with a copy of new Translations, and our Society, being a Universal Society, without distinction of Religious denomination, having obtained a copy of the book published, should enter the name on its Œcumenical List : if copies are supplied for sale, the name and price would be entered on the Price-List. During the last year I have received from a Missionary on the Kongo a copy of a printed Gospel prepared in the Language of the Bangala, or Boloki, a member of the Bantu Linguistic Family, and spoken of highly by the Baptist Society. Within the last week I received, as a present, at a Meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society in my own neighbourhood, a printed copy (Buda Pest, 1899) of a Gospel of John in the Paulitian Language, spoken in a portion of Hungary. Of course such publications cannot be at once placed on our Lists without inquiry. These two Gospels quoted are not merely Linguistic specimens, but on inquiry are found to be prepared for the Salvation of Souls. We are bound as the great Representative Society for this portion of Missionary Work to present to the Public a complete statement of what has been done each year to fulfil our Lord's Commands.

And something more. I love to stand in the Portico of the Temple, peeping through the half-opened door, to see what the men of the Twentieth Century will do to discharge their never-ceasing Duty, and their Everlasting Work ; and we must do our best to help them, and prepare material for them. It is one of my cherished desires to prepare gradually

a list of the Languages, spoken in each of the five Division of the World *not yet provided with the Holy Scriptures in their own Vernacular and worthy of this honour.* My Linguistic studies of half a Century, and my Volumes printed on the Languages of several Regions, have encouraged me to start the measure at once. It will be an easy task to tackle Europe, but Asia must be divided into Sub-Regions: such as India, China, Persia, Russia, etc.; and Africa, America and Oceania, will require the services of Special Scholars, if they are available, if we know how and where to look for them, and are willing to remunerate them.

I propose at once to set the work going as regards Oceania. I know a man, who is better informed on the subject than any living man: his name is Sydney Ray, and the Rev. Prebendary Codrington, of Chichester, will, I feel sure, kindly consent to supervise the operation. We cannot go any longer picking up chance pebbles on the shore, and putting them into a bag with an alphabetical list, or trusting to a chance Missionary or a linguistic enthusiast, such a man as has given us this year a Gospel in Broad Scotch. If we have done well in the Nineteenth Century, in the Twentieth Century we must do better, until in very deed the sound of the Teaching of Jesus has gone out to all Nations, and His Words to the end of the World.

“ Πόλλαι μὲν θνήτοις γλώσσαι, μιὰ δ' ἀθανατοῖσι.”

“ Multae terricolis linguæ, coelestibus una.”

“ Many the tongues of poor men, but one the tongue of the Angels.”





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