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THE SOURCES OF THE NILE.

14, Montagu Place, Nov. 20, 1869.

I enclose you a copy of a small map which I have had for many years in my possession, showing Capt. Burton's theory respecting the Sources of the Nile as far back as 1856. In that year he left England to command the expedition for their discovery, which had been the object of his thoughts and studies for many previous years—always a disciple of Ptolemy. Capt. Speke joined him, and after three years of unheard of difficulties and dangers, they returned, having discovered Tanganyika. Whilst they were absent, Capt. Burton being very ill for a short time, and experiencing a yearning to be alone, sent Capt. Speke on a twenty-seven days' march to try and find a lake, which his calculations, theories and inquiries from the Arabs, assured him ought to be there. Speke sighted a water then, and subsequently found on his next expedition, but much farther north, a lake which he called Victoria Nyanza.

I quote a note from Capt. Burton's 'Nile Basin,' page 37, which is the pivot of the whole affair: "I distinctly deny that any 'misleading by my instructions from the Royal Geographical Society as to the position of the White Nile,' left me unconscious of the vast importance of ascertaining the Busizi River's direction. The fact is, Capt. Speke was deaf and almost blind. I was paralytic, and we were both helpless (he might have added penniless). We did our best to reach it, and failed."

Capt. Burton always said from the first that the Nile must have many sources, and that there were probably waters south of the Tanganyika. In his 'Lake Regions' he speaks of a large river Marungu, draining the southern countries towards the Tanganyika, and entering the lake at its southernmost point, which has now been proved by Dr. Livingstone. He was misled by Capt. Speke's erroneous elevation of the lake, and by the more than probably wrong information received by the African chiefs, as interpreted by his negro servant Bombay. In short, Capt. Speke determined to have his own lake at all hazards, and for a time he became master of the field.

I am anxious, before I sail to join Capt. Burton at Damascus—and I have not many days left—to claim Capt. Burton's proper position amongst the five explorers of the lakes, having already had a reminder that "les absents ont toujours tort." That position means—second to Livingstone as explorer, to whom he has shown the way to the Nile, and first as lake discoverer.

The outlines of the map I refer to were drawn for me in 1856, but where the lakes are now correctly marked, stood pencil notes, which said, "Should be water here"—"Supposed site of a lake." The lakes and names were successively filled up for me in 1859 and 1864. Perhaps you may think it interesting enough to give it a place in your paper, and will kindly allow this letter to accompany it; or the letter by itself if there is no room for the map.

ISABEL BURTON.

NEW NAMES AND OLD BOOKS.

Nov. 19, 1869.

I would respectfully suggest that the recently published work on 'The Early Years of Christianity,' from the French of M. de Pressensé, should be advertised as a translation from part of his 'Histoire des Trois Premiers Siècles de l'Église Chrétienne,' published in 1858. The title is so far

changed that the identity between the two is not very apparent; besides which, the translation is advertised as a "Sequel" to 'Jesus Christ, his Times, Life and Work,' and as, in part, a 'Reply' to Renan as well as Strauss. It was therefore a natural, though a mortifying, mistake in me to suppose the book a new one, and to purchase it accordingly. Certainly, it gives in excellent English part of what had long been familiar to me in admirable French, and is so far interesting; but I would submit to Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton that a "Sequel" is not generally written before its predecessor, nor does a "Reply" often anticipate the work to be refuted. G.

THE CHARLEMAGNE BIBLE.

25, St. Stephen's Square, Nov. 20, 1869.

IN reference to the so-called "Charlemagne Bible," supposed to be written by the hand or under the superintendence of Alcuin, which has recently been the subject of inquiry in France, I am enabled to state (having had a principal share in the transaction) that it was purchased of M. Speyr-Passavant, of Basle, in June, 1836, by the Trustees of the British Museum. It is numbered "Additional MS., 10,546," and has been exhibited to the public in the department of MSS. ever since its purchase. I may be permitted also to point out to those who are interested in the subject three papers written by myself, and printed in the forgotten pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for October-December of that year, in which will be found:—

1. A succinct account of Alcuin's life, and the evidence by which it is known that he revised, by order of Charlemagne, the Hieronymian text of the Vulgate; a copy of which, so revised, was sent by him to the Emperor, to be presented to him on the day of his coronation at Rome, December 25th, A.D. 800.

2. The history of M. Speyr-Passavant's manuscript, so far as it could be ascertained.

3. A minute description of this volume, and a statement of its claims to be considered the copy presented to Charlemagne.

4. Notices of other existing manuscripts of the Vulgate Latin Bible of the Carolingian period, i. e. of the eighth and ninth centuries, as well as of some others, earlier and later.

Among the manuscripts thus noticed will be found the Bible of S. Maria della Vallicella at Rome; that of the monastery of San Calisto; the two Bibles of Charles le Chauve, formerly in the Bibliothèque du Roi (Imperial Library), and afterwards transferred to the Salle des Souverains; the one at Vienna, written for Rado, abbot of St. Vaast, near Arras, about A.D. 805; the Bible at Zurich; that of M. le Président de Mesmes, written for Theodulp, abbot of Fleury, circa A.D. 790; that of St. Germain-des-Pris, written A.D. 809, and several more. In addition to these manuscripts (nearly all of which claim to be of Alcuin's recension), I may now add another, preserved in the library at Bamberg, and said to be very similar to the codex purchased of M. Speyr-Passavant. To this copy are prefixed the lines beginning "In hoc quinque libri retineantur codice Moysis," printed in Froben's edition of 'Alcuin's Works,' tom. 1, vol. 2, p. 205; but in the MS. they are headed merely "Incipiunt versiculi Albini magistri," and, after the eighteenth line, add the following, which are not in the printed work:—

Jusserat hoc omnes, Christi deductus amore,  
 Alcuinus, ecclesie famulus, perscribere libros,  
 Pro quo, quisquis leges lector celestia verba,  
 Funde preces Domino, devoto pectore posco,  
 Ut conservet eum in ejus pia gratia semper,  
 Et clemens animæ requiem concedat in ævum  
 Illius eternum, semper laus, gloria, Christo.

This manuscript is imperfect, having lost the leaves from part of the Epistle to the Hebrews to the end of the New Testament.

In the above communication to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, although I put forward on fair grounds the claims of the Bible now in the British Museum to be the copy presented to Charlemagne, yet at the same time I pointed out the remarkable similarity between that manuscript and the Bible No. 1 of the Bibliothèque du Roi, presented to

Charles le Chauve by Vivian, abbot of Tours, about the year 850. This resemblance puzzled me, and in 1838, when at Paris, I took the opportunity of making a minute examination of the latter volume, which resulted in my coming to the conclusion, first, that the Bible No. 1 and the one purchased of M. Speyr-Passavant were both executed by the same hands, in regard alike to the writing, ornamental letters and miniatures. The latter, indeed, are almost identical in both copies, but the Paris manuscript has at present two more than in the British Museum copy. On the last leaf also of the Bible No. 1. is the portrait of Charles le Chauve, with a representation of the presentation of the volume to him by the abbot Vivian. The learned authors of the 'Nouveau Traité de Diplomatique' had expressed their opinion that this portrait was a *later addition*, but after the most scrupulous examination, I could not but admit that this painting was contemporary with the rest of the volume. This being conceded, it follows that the Speyr-Passavant Bible must be of the same age, and both were probably executed between the years 840 and 850.

F. MADDEN.

SHAKESPEARE AND THE PRINTERS.

11, Tregunter Road, Nov. 20, 1869.

IN a memorandum respecting a minute variation in different copies of the First Folio edition of Shakespeare, which you did me the honour to insert in last Saturday's *Athenæum*, I fear that I may not have been sufficiently explanatory. At all events, I observe that a Correspondent in to-day's number of your journal entirely misunderstands the subject; and, in case others may be in a similar predicament, I will endeavour, with your kind permission, to render it intelligible to every capacity. The case is simply this. It has long been a well-established fact that our early printers were in the habit of keeping the types of some of their books, especially plays, in forms, working off small numbers of copies as required. The quantity of type employed and locked up in this way was enormous. These forms were frequently corrected when a new impression was demanded, and hence arose the large number of curious textual variations in different copies of the same edition of Shakespeare. In the instance under discussion, a printer's space, indicated as usual by a turned letter, takes the place of the capital letter B in the word Beatrice. The compositor was obviously "short" of that letter, and, in the first issue of the work, the space was accidentally permitted to remain. When the forms were brought up for a subsequent impression, the oversight was discovered, the turned letter removed, and the letter B inserted. It follows, therefore, beyond any doubt whatever, that any genuine copy of the work in which the space occurs must necessarily contain an early impression of Droeshout's portrait. The suggestion made by your Correspondent that a letter may have dropped out is obviously untenable. His other theory is inconsistent with the system known to have been adopted by the printer of the work. Even, however, had your Correspondent been right in his view of the case, there would hardly have been an error committed of sufficient magnitude to justify the scornful tone he has assumed. As it is, he did not reflect that it was just possible that I might have partially adopted my views on circumstances thought to be too elementary to introduce; but there are some people under the delusion that they can at once rise to cleverness by expressing strong opinions on Shakespearean matters, provided that their theories are seasoned with a good sneer at Shakespearean critics. J. O. HALLIWELL.

TWO DRAMAS BY THE LATE WILLIAM HARNES.

Maidenhead, Nov. 20, 1869.

THE late Rev. William Harness wrote and printed plays. I never heard that they were published for sale: I doubt if the names of them are known beyond the circle of his immediate friends, of whom I happen to have been one for nearly forty years; and they are now lying before me. The title of the earliest, and the best,