STORY OF THE BIBLE.

HOW IT WAS COMPILED, PRESERVED AND BROUGHT DOWN.

The Records Began With Abraham and Were Collected by Ezra-It Was Born Istant's Gift to the World.

New discoveries about the Rible are being made almost daily. The religious world is startled every now and then by the announcement that some old manuscript has been found or some clay Cablet corroborating Biblical history has been deciphered. The last few years have been especially notable for remark-Chle finds, not the least of which has been a single leaf of papyrus bearing a lew sayings of Jesus—logia, as they have been called. These discoveries crouse a questioning frame of mind. We ask, how did we get the Bible, whence did it come, what was the method of its transmission to us? Learned volumes have been written, but only scholars read them. One of the latest of these is by Dr. William A. Coppinger, but it is so expensive a voleme-only 150 copies have been printed for sale-that few can read it, even if they would. The much talked of polychrome Bible, edited by leading Biblical cholars of the world, is an answer to this demand. Still, the question, how did the Bible come down to us? ought to be answered briefly, so that the masses of the people can read and undercand. It is irreverent to the Bible and the inspired men who gave us this world classic-the classic-dealing with the eternal theme of the relation between man and God to think of it as a ready made volume, dropped down from heaven bound and gilt edged. The Bible was born in the little land

of Canaan as the weary caravan, led by Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees, pitched its tents and the patriarch wrote down the promises of the Eternal on the palm leaves which he found at hand. This was more than 4,000 years ago, and that writing was in use so early is proved by inscriptions found on Egyptian steles or Assyrian tablets from £ 000 to 8,000 years old.

The records kept by Abraham and his immediate descendants undoubtedly era rotas. formed the basis of the book of Genesis nation was formed, with his legislation as its heart and center. It is probable that Moses wrote his portion of the Bible upon the linen used for such purposes in Egypt, for many large pieces d this linen covered with hieroglyphic writing have come down to us wrapped ground mummies. The inscriptions are still legible. The Pentateuch was the nucleus of our Bible, the only Bible known to the Hebrews for many generstions. It was written in the ancient Ibri character, closely resembling the Phoenician, as proved by the Siloam incription discovered near Jerusalem and some ancient coins which have been found. Leaders like Joshua, Gideon and Samuel were needed in the promised to a loaf half the juice; to 2 loaves, all Land. Singers and prophets, too, arose, of it; a little grated nutmeg, a handful and the scribes of the leaders recorded what was done. The poets wrote down | white celery leaves, thyme, sweet martheir best songs. The prophets' words were treasured up by their disciples and followers. The official records were kept | twice the quantity of thyme as of the in the national archives, and the songs marjoram or savory. Mix all together, dry and fill the crops, putting all the prophets were passed from hand to remainder into the bodies of the fowl. band. When the kingdom was divided, As the filling is being done add small records were certainly kept both in the pieces of good butter, which, together couthern kingdom of Judah and the with the proper basting, will give the northern kingdom of Israel. But much of the earlier literature was forgotten In the catastrophe of the destruction of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and the exiles refused to sing the songs of Zion as they "sat by the waters of Babel and wept." When at last the term of exile was over and some of the more walls and temple of Jerusalem, the law

Ezra was the man for this work, and he and his condjutors, the elders, collected the scattered records of earlier Pentateuch. They wrote it in a new cript-Kethav Ashuris, the Assyrian or square character brought back from Babylon with them - and read and tanght it to the people. By this time some of the speeches delivered by the prophets of the exile, the second Isaiah and his disciples, had become so dear to the hearts of the people that they were teemed as classics. Some had preservthe addresses of the earlier prophets, and gradually a second set of accepted writings was added to the law. The dder songs, too, were found again, and new singers were inspired for the service of the new temple, and the book of Psalms became its hymnbook.

had to be brought back to them.

The proverbs of the nation were collected by various hands. Other books were found or written as late as the secand century before the Christian era. The book of Daniel, for instance, was composed to inspire a people, fainting under Syrian oppression, for the Maccabean revolution. And all this later litgrature was struggling for acceptance into the Bible until the canon of the Old Testament as we now have it was established in the first century of our era by the rabbinical school of Palestine. As the nation Israel sunk under the waves of Roman conquest the Jewish pirit held the Old Testament aloft as is gift to the world .- Clifton Hardy Levy in Review of Reviews.

First Burglar-It's no use tryin thet place t'night, Bill. Ther man an his wife went in 'bout an hour ago, an I beerd him tell her he'd buy her a di'mond necklace termorrer.

Second Burglar-What's thet got t'

First Burglar-Plenty. She won't be able t' sleep fer t'inkin 'bout it, an he 'I heard pa say there would be lots of won't sleep fer t'inkin how he's got t' it."—London Tit-Bits. pay fer it.-London Fun.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

Some Examples of the Glaring Inconsistencies of Its Alphabet.

As our alphabet now stands-even after 6,000 years of perfecting-it is a string of singularly ambiguous signs and affords an unequaled opportunity for tormentors, just as a man who can-In the Little Land of Canasa -- Conquered not express himself clearly can be plagued with sophisticated questions. The confusion of English sound and letters is well illustrated by spelling coffee without one correct letter-kauphy -which spelling is nearer the original than the one in use, for a pamphlet was printed in Oxford in 1659 on "The Nature of the Drink Kauphi or Coffee."

The artistically bad orthography of many of our funny writers is made postible by the glaring inconsistencies of tur alphabet. But some instances of natarally funny bad spelling are perhaps equal to any artificial ones. Here is a note that was sent to a doctor:

Cer-Yole oblige me uf yole kum un ce me I hev a Bad kowd am Hill an hev lost my Hap-

The following, received by a schoolmaster, was likely to be misunderstood: Sur-As you are a man of nolege I intend to inter my son in your skull.

Here is a bill sent to a gentleman:

sosafada\$1 50

The items are not apothecaries' articles, as might be supposed, but merely "a horse half a day and a taking on him home again."

Many eccentric devices of literature depend on the peculiar arrangement of letters. Some of these have fine sounding names and are recognized as famous recreations of the learned. The palindrome, which is a line that reads alike backward and forward, is one of the most difficult of all feats of letter juggling and has engaged the attention of the world's cleverest brains.

While in exile Napoleon was asked by an Englishman if he thought he could have sacked London and replied, "Able was I ere I saw Elba"—the most skillful palindrome on record. Run the letters of the reply backward if you would test it. A famous Latin example is the lawyers' motto, "Si Nummi immunis." The following sentence is not only a palindrome, but extraordinary in other respects: "Sator areppo tenet op-

This spells the same backward and and the earlier chapters of Exodus, to forward; all the first letters of the be later utilized by the hand of Moses words spell the first word; the second and his successors. With the advent of letters of the word spell the second words spell the first word; the second this great legislator of the Hebrews the word, and so on through the third, fourth and fifth. The last letters spell the last word; the next to the last of each word spell the next word, and so on to the beginning.-London Mail.

ENGLISH STUFFINGS.

Recipes Which the Sender Says Are Excellent and Not Found In Books.

Here is a recipe for turkey and chicken stuffing which the sender says is very different in its results from those given

in the cookbooks: Crumble or grate the inside of a stale loaf or more of baker's bread, either a round loaf or milk bread. Add pepper and salt, the grated rind of a lemon and finely cut parsley leaves and fine joram and summer savory, using the leaves in preference to the ground, and marjoram or savory. Mix all together, dressing sufficient moisture.

This dressing is also excellent for roast leg of pork when you do not want to simulate duck or goose with it.

"The recipe for the good old English stuffing for ducks or geese," the sender adds, "I never see in our cookbooks and do not find it used upon my neighbors' devoted Jews returned to rebuild the tables. People spoil these birds with

soft bread and muss.' This is the old recipe for stuffing for

geese, ducks or a leg of pork: Take equal parts of parboiled potatoes cut into inch square cubes and onions days and made the first canon of the cut up. Strain dry, add pepper and salt and sage leaves crushed up. Prepare enough of the mixture to fill the pork or birds with it and to lay some of it under them in the roasting pan. Keep this extra filling under the birds. Dish it separately and serve it at the table with the rest .- New York Sun.

Pure Water and New Boilers.

The corrosive power of pure water on new or unscaled boilers was well illustrated in the city of Glasgow when a new water supply was introduced from Loch Katrine, one of the purest waters in the world which are available for city consumption. The former supply had been poor and calcareous, and old boilers were much coated with lime

The trout, each from three-quarters of all inch in length.—New York

Sun.

A Novel Plan.

When Lawson Tait, the English sur
When Lawson Tait, the English sur
157 Washington St. Chicago. scale. To the dismay of the users those who had put in new boilers or new tubes found them rapidly corroding, while the old scaled and coated boilers remained as before. Those, too, who had removed every possible trace of old incrustation from their old boilers by mechanical or chemical means, intending thus to get, as they expected, the full benefit of pure water, were also badly troubled by corrosion, and even the old boilers as the scale was gradually removed by the unvaryingly soft and pure water from the lake were more or less corroded when no means were taken

The Awful Small Boy. Mrs. Cakebread was entertaining some ladies at a select little 5 o'clock tea, and Bobby, who had been exceptionally well behaved, was in high

feather. "Ma," he said, as cake was being handed round, "may I have some tongue, please?"

"There isn't any tongue, Bobby." "That's funny," commented Bobby.

(So? Who can tell?) Ah, not the first love dearest, but the last! tides of youth, dear heart, run fast, rur fast.

The buds upon the young tree shoot and swell
Reckless of frosts. Well! Well!
Why should we dwell on follies that are past?

For now, behold, the green and callow shoots Of early spring
Are dry and withered to the very roots.
They were love's first faint perfumed offer-

ing Taking swift wing. Leaving a fragrant memory, but no fruits.

Let us not speak of them with smiling scorn They have made way

For the rich bloom and fruitage later born,

And born of spirit rather than of clay, Making our day Glad with the freshness of perpetual morn.

Eternal? Dear, let us believe it so, And in our bliss Let dull analysis and doubting go.

Unquestioning, while in a rapturous kiss
Like this—my sweet—and this—
The fullness of celestial joy we know!
—Annie L. Muzzey in New York Sun.

TO BEGINNERS IN FICTION.

Good Advice For Those Who Attempt to

Write Books. Read up on United States historyyou will get some useful information anyway-and see what you can do with that. Don't take your scene from France or Italy, where you have never been. Home is nearer and just as good. If you can light upon an idea which has not been done to death, or a situation unbackneyed or unfamiliar, make the most of it. New England has been so F run upon that it affords material only to a few experts. The middle states and those between the Ohio and the Reckies. locally speaking, are a poor literary field, but the south and far west are not worked out yet. Avoid dialect; as a main reliance its day is done. Avoid "hifalutin," spread eagle and riproaring styles; they are of the yet remoter past. Find out what your bent is, if you have any, and what you have to say, if anything; if not, seek other pursuits. Remember that a poor story or essay is of less value than a peck of inferior apples, and that the author of a bad novel | 150 Rooms. is entitled to no more respect than a shoemaker or a farmer who does not understand his business. The pioneers of our literature may have done what now seems poor work, but they knew no better then and had nothing betterthey were pioneers, and as such entitled to a place in history-but nobody is going to write the history of the multifarious literary efforts of our time that come to nothing.

Whatever you do take pains with it. Try at least to write good English. Learn to criticise and correct your work. Put your best into every sentence. If you are too lazy and careless to do that, better go into trade or politics. It is easier to become a congressman or millionaire than a real author, and we -Lippincott's Magazine.

A Spin on an Ice Yacht.

The wind is strong and steady, and the boat glides faster and faster. Sharp exclamations of pleasure testify that the passengers are enjoying it. The speed Library of the increases. Before lies a field smooth as plate glass and level as a billiard table. For two miles it extends without a flaw. At its farther edge lies a tremendous crack filled with ground up ice and heaving black water. The full power of the wind strikes the white wings as the smoothest ice is reached, and the craft darts away at a tremendous pace. Faster, faster, she flies, till she is traveling faster than the wind that drives her. The air seems to be full of electric sparks; a frosty haze blurs the view; every hearer is throbbing with delight at the wild, free speed of it all. Before one has had time to think the crack seems to be rushing at the boat. A moment of intense anxiety, a catching of breaths, a wild pumping of hearts, then a shrick of excited joy. The good boat has flown the gap as a hunter clears his fence, has flung it behind her with never a rap, and is tearing away over another good bit as though she had no need to touch anything more solid than the cold, sweet air. -Outing.

A Greedy Little Fish.

The little fish known as miller's thumb-the fresh water sculpin-is one of the natural checks on the overproduction of trout and salmon. It eats the eggs and the young fish. It is found in all trout waters as fast as examined. It is very destructive. At an experiment once made in the aquarium of the United States fish commission, in Washington, a miller's thumb about four and one half inches long ate at a single meal, and all within a minute or two, 21 little trout, each from three-quarters of an

geon, and his wife were driving through the city of Montreal one hot summer morning, Mrs. Tait, observing large blocks of ice standing opposite each door, remarked, "See what a novel plan they have of keeping the air nice and cool by exposing small icebergs opposite each door."

The city of Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, was founded 300 years ago by Juan de Onate, and there has never been a rat, a mouse or a cat within its corporate limits. The air is too high and dry for rodents and felines.

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