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hours they can place copies on the market!

Then came with the demand for books, the introduction of book sewing, cover making, cutting and other machinery necessary to cheapen and speed up production—until today the price of books is within the reach of those who wish to obtain them.

The advantages to be gained by the wide distribution of knowledge through the printed word has been such as to bring education on all subjects within the reach of everyone. With the opportunity thus offered all nations are producing the literature of their country for the benefit of their peoples, and the natural sequence to this opportunity is the gain of knowledge—and knowledge is power. The power thus gained made nations greater and more progressive, and this has its reflections in the present condition of the peoples of the world for they have now reached a high degree of culture.

When the forests in Canada were first used for the production of paper pulp, the progress of civilization followed the trail blazed by the axemen—for immense cities sprang up wherever the forests were cleared, and civilization followed in the wake of the uncivilized Red Indian, who a few years previously hunted for his food, and incidentally the scalps of the intruders.

Now that the practical side of the production of the "printed word" has been dealt with, it is unnecessary to refer to the influence of the printed word on mankind save to add that the greatest book ever published is the Bible. Reference has been made to its being one of the first books published in Latin, and the true history of the British Bible begins with Tyndale's translation, to whom, more than any other man, the English Bible is due. Miles Coverdale published the first complete translation of the Bible into English in 1535. Since then it has been printed in over 500 languages, and in 1918 over nine million volumes were issued. During the Great War over eight million copies, covering eighty languages, were distributed ashore and afloat to friends and foes alike by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It will never be denied that the spread of the Gospel throughout the world has been

the greatest factor in advancing civilization, and, when we think of its teachings and records, one does not wonder at its powerful influence on mankind. The records—or most of them—have been translated from hieroglyphics and other signs and symbols—impressions of which were imprinted in stone or other substance—the method used in those days compared with our printed word. The excavations taking place in old-world buried cities are continually adding to our wonder, and should a similar fate overtake some of our present day parts of the world it is questionable how the excavators of a century or so hence will translate some of our records. They will probably conclude, if they come across the modern gramophone records, that we were a people who kept our records by a code of circles, from two inches from the centre to eight inches—more or less—on a disc!—probably regarded as some form of the printed word.

In concluding this article the writer trusts that, although treated technically, it will prove the impression created in the opening sentence that the word "civilisation" is used to describe a state of human society in which people have reached a certain degree of culture" and that through the "Printed Word."

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

The Chair was much interested in the fine article on "The Printed Word and Civilization" by Mr J. W. Baty, in the November number of our "Gazette." It brought to mind the Alexander Turnbull Library Bulletin No. 4 from which we make the following extract, the title of the matter being "The Story of Printing Traced in Ancient and Modern Books."

The manufacture of manuscript books, though at any time an incalculably laborious process, was speeded up in the monasteries and similar houses of study, by means of having a "lector" who read to a number of scribes. This procedure, by the way, accounts for the great differences in classic texts that have come down to us, for standardized spelling was yet four centuries away, and word forms were more phonetic than regular.

In the days of manuscript books, the custom had not arisen of identifying a book by means of a title-page. Sometimes the title or author was mentioned in the colophon, which was the scribe's ending, generally recording his name, date of completion of the transcription, place, and any other matter related to the book. One amusing colophon is recorded as expressing the relief felt at completing a written volume. "Nunc scripsi totum," he writes, "pro Christo da mihi potum": "Now I have written it all; for Christ's sake give me a drink."

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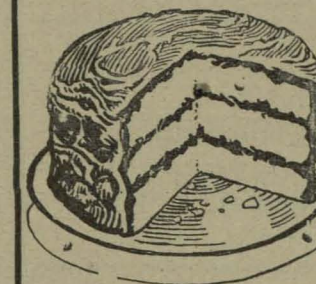
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