

Andrew Gifford's Gifts to Bristol.

BRISTOL Baptist College is not only the oldest Free Church College in the Empire, but is possessed of the most valuable collection of pictures, MSS., and books, which any such institution contains. For the major part of these she is indebted to the Rev. Dr. A. Gifford in 1780. Here are fragments of the famous Cottonian MS.; the most perfect copy of Wycliffe's Translation of the Gospels, which belonged at one time to the Lollard leader, John Oldcastle, the good Lord Cobham; the most complete copy of William Tyndale's New Testament, printed at Worms in 1525; no fewer than thirty-five different editions of the Bible, and New Testament, issued in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, besides many other antiquities and curiosities, some of which Caxton printed. How Dr. Gifford became possessed of some of these is told us by the Rev. S. A. Swaine in his *Faithful Men: or Memorials of Bristol Baptist College*.

Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas Kennard, of Leamington Spa, we can say how others of these treasures were obtained. Our good friend possesses a copy of the catalogue of one of the most noted sales of books, etc., of the 18th century. Here is the title page:

Bibliotheca Westiana: / A / Catalogue / of the Curious and truly
valuable / Library / of the late / James West, Esq; / President of
Royal Society, / Deceased. / Comprehending / A choice collection of
Books in various Languages, / and upon most Branches of polite
Literature / More especially such as relate to / The History and Anti-
quities of Great Britain and Ireland, / Their early Navigators, Dis-
coverers and Improvers, / And the Ancient English Literature: / of
which there are a great Number of uncommon Books and / Tracts,
elucidated by Manuscript Notes and original Letters, and / embellished
with scarce Portraits and Devices, rarely to be found: / Including the
Works of Caxton, Letton, Machlinia, the Anony- / mous St. Alban's
Schoolmaster, Wynkin De Worde, Pynion, / and the rest of old English
Typographers. / Digested by Samuel Paterson. / Which (by Order and
Administration) / Will be sold by Auction, / By Mess. Langford, / At

Mr. West's late Dwelling-House in King's Street, / Covent Garden, / On Monday, the 29th of March 1773, and the Twenty-three follow- / ing Days (Sundays excepted) / To begin each Day precisely at Half an Hour past Eleven. / To be view'd on Thursday the 25th, and to the Time of Sale. / Catalogues (Price Two Shillings) may be had at Mess. Lang- / ford, in the Great Piazza, Covent Garden, and at the Place / of Sale.

This catalogue has itself had an interesting history. By its book-plate we learn that once it belonged to William Staunton of Longbridge in Warwickshire, Esq.; then in 1812 Philip Bliss of St. John's College, Oxford, obtained it; and now Mr. Kennard has it in his valuable collection. Bliss edited the third edition of Anthony Wood's *Athenae Oxoniensis*, which was issued 1813-20.

West's MSS., including many which had belonged to Bishop White Kennett, were sold previously to Lord Shelburne, and now form part of the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum. There were 4,653 lots in the sale by auction and they realised £2,927 1s. 0d. In the catalogue before me is written in red ink the price given for each lot and in most cases the name of the buyer. Richard Gough, the English antiquary, bought many of the books, particularly those with Kennett's annotations, and they afterward went to the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

We learn that on three different days Dr. Gifford attended and made thirteen purchases at a total cost of £7 13s. 6d. Here are the details of the items, giving in the margin the cost of each, and the no. in catalogue, viz:

£ s. d.

- 2 0 811 Certayne Chapters and Proverbs of Solomon drawn into Metre by Tho. Sterneholde, late Grome of Kynges Majesties Robes, b.l. impr. by John Case, no date, imperfect at the end.
- 4 0 814 Select Psalms and Prayers. b.l. no title, impr. by Berthelet 1548.
Qu Katherine's Prayers and Meditations, b.l. imp. by Berthelet, 1547, no title.
- 6 0 815 The Summe of Christianity gathered by that famous Clerke Fr. Lambert of Avynion, translated by Tristram Revel. b.l. ded. to Qu Anne Bolen.
- 8 0 817 Wicklief's Wicket, faithfully overseene and corrected, wyth the Protestacion of Jhon Lassels, late burned in Smythefelde, the Testament of Wyllyam Traice, Esq; expounded by Wyll Tyndale and John Frythe, overseene by M. C. (Myles Coverdale), b.l. no date..
- 10 6 818. A bryefe Summe of the whole Byble. Christian Instruccion for all Persons, with the ordinary for all Degrees, translated out of Dutch into Englysh by Ant. Scoleher, with cuts,

- £ s. d. b.l. impr by Scoloher, no date—The Governauce of Vertue, b.l. impr by Th. Raynelde, no date—A shote Recapitulation or Abridgement of Erasmus Enchiridion, drawn out by M. Coverdale, b.l. impr. a Ausborch by Adam Anonimus, cuts, 1545.
- 18 0 819. The Newe Testament, with the Prologes of Wylliam Tyndale, cuts, b.l. printed at Andwarp by me Wydow of Chrystophell of Endhoven 1534. The title and the last leaf of the Epilogue is wanting.
- 2 4 0 820. The Newe Testament, with the Prologes of Wylliam Tyndale, cuts, b.l. imprinted at Antwerpe by Matthed Crom. 1538, a fine copy, save that the title is wanting, bound in turkey.
- 1 1 0 821. The Newe Testament, in Englishe, according to the Translation of the greek Byble, b.l. imp by Grafton 1546.
- 5 0 840. Saint Augustine's Meditations and Manuell, with cuts, b.l. impr by Jo. Wolfe 1586.
- 8 0 1378. Pupilla Oculi Jo de Burgo, compilata Anno 138, Lond. apud Bibliopoles in cemeterio S Pauli, sub Intersignio Sancliff individuo Trinitatis. 1510.
- 8 0 1515. Verheidens Lives of the Reformers, in Dutch, with their portraits, 50 plates. Gravenh, 1603.
Ninth Day's Sale, Wednesday April 7, 1773.
- 6 0 1721. Ames's Catalogue of the several printed English Translations of the New and Old Test. from the first and N.T. by Tindel 1526 (supposed to have been printed at Antwerp) to the year 1757, with the Names of the Possessors of the most curious at that Time. MS.
- 13 0 1755. Clark's Mirreur for Saints and Sinners, with his portr. by Cross, 2 vol., 1671.

Not all Dr. Gifford's gifts to Bristol College are there to-day. In 1785 the college committee made a gift of many of their duplicates to the Baptist College in Rhode Island, now known as Brown University, and of which the chief founder was one of its own alumni, the Rev. Morgan Edwards, M.A., who before he went to Philadelphia in 1761 had served Baptist churches as pastor here in the United Kingdom at Boston, Cork, and Rye. Then in 1792 when the Rev. Joseph Hughes, M.A., was acting as President, there was a sale of duplicates. To-day in the Cathedral Library at Lincoln, is a copy of Thomas Grantham's *The Prisoner against the Prelate*, published 1662, which is written in verse, and has a rude cut of the gaol and the cathedral. When the writer was permitted to look at this, the librarian asked that

extreme care should be taken of the treasure. Imagine his surprise when it was pointed out to him that according to a note on the cover, written by Mr. Hughes, it had come from Bristol Baptist College, and it contained also the bookplate of Andrew Gifford. When he got it we cannot say, but a copy was sold at West's sale for sixpence.

ARTHUR S. LANGLEY.

A Note on John Smith's Last Confession of Faith.

In the Confession of Faith in one hundred "Propositions," published by the remainder of John Smith's church at Amsterdam, soon after his death in 1612, there is one puzzling reference which I think may be cleared up.

The 65th proposition runs as follows in the printed edition:

"That the visible church is a mistycall figure outwardlie, of the true, spirituall invisible church: which consisteth of the spirits of iust and perfect men onlie, that is of the regenerate. Rev. 1. 20. compared with 2 P. 2. 23. 27."

Now there is no such passage as the latter. To what passage then did Smith here refer in support of his opinion? The Dutch Version of this Confession gives the reference Rev. xxi. 2; a passage which tells of "the holy city new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven" but hardly gives direct support to the two contentions of John Smith in this proposition.

Smith declares here (*a*) that the visible church is a mystical figure of the invisible church, and (*b*) that the latter consists "of the spirits of just and perfect men only."

When John Robinson criticised this Confession of Faith¹ he quoted a different set of references. He says "the Scriptures brought, which are Revel. 1. 10 [compared] with Chap: 21. 2, 13, 27, speak of the visible Church only, and so are impertinent." I assume that his copy had an emendation of the reference in manuscript made by someone who saw that the printed reference was wrong.

¹ Of Religious Communion, John Robinson, 1614, p. 127.

Robert Barclay in his *Inner Life of the Religious Societies of the Commonwealth*, following up the suggestion given by Robinson, gave a conflated reference, "Rev. i. 20 compared with Rev. xxi. 2, 23, 27," and in this I followed him in my *John Smith the Se-baptist* of 1911, p. 251.

The solution I now suggest is as follows: John Smith saw in