

Its style is human and its form universal. Many of the Hindu books, e.g., the *Dharam Sindhu*, which describes the holy festival and the "Tantras" that deal with Sakti worship are obscene and horrible beyond belief. Who would care to give a popular, literal translation of the thirty-third or sixty-sixth chapter of the Koran?

Although other sacred books have been translated into languages not their own, they are the exception and not the rule. Most of these translations were the result of Christian scholarship, and were not spontaneous. The Bible, however, has won its readers and proved its popularity from the earliest centuries. In days when each copy had to be made by hand the scribes multiplied only such books as were in demand; yet we are told that "the plays of Aeschylus survive in about fifty manuscripts, while of the New Testament we possess over 4,000 Greek manuscripts, more or less complete, besides 8,000 Latin manuscripts, of the Vulgate version." The earliest book to be printed in Europe was the Latin Bible, and one hundred editions of it had appeared during the first half century of printing. The most popular modern English author is Charles Dickens, and it has been computed that since *Pickwick* appeared 25,000,000 copies of his books have gone out into the world. But during the last four years of war alone the Bible societies have circulated forty million portions of the Scriptures in 437 languages. The Bible is the best-selling book in the world.