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PROGRESS IN BIBLE TRANSLATION*
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Whenever a group of Christian people carries through a project of making a new translation of the Bible into English, there is reason for rejoicing. One of the outstanding excellences of the Bible is its translatability.

Mohammedans claim that the Koran is only valid in the original Arabic. They consider all translations as poor efforts to give the idea of a great Arabic classic.

In many languages translations of the Bible have lived a life of their own and exerted tremendous influence upon the thought and culture of the people who read them.

At present there is particular reason to rejoice when Bible-believing Christians prepare a new translation of the Bible. The English-speaking world has long enjoyed one of the greatest treasures that any nation ever possessed--the so-called King James Version. The very fact that the King James Version is such an excellent translation into the English language of 300 years ago has made it difficult for other translations to receive proper attention and has resulted in this version remaining a standard long after many of its words, verb forms, and expressions have become completely archaic and difficult for the ordinary person to understand.

It can safely be said that few translations of the Bible into any language have at all approached the excellence of the King James Version. However, the reason for this is not known to

* This editorial reviews The Holy Bible: The Berkeley Version in Modern English. Gerrit Verkuyl, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1959.