

**THE STORY OF
MARY JONES AND
HER BIBLE**

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The Story of Mary Jones and Her Bible by Mary Ropes

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MARY ROPES

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THE STORY
OF
Mary Jones and Her Bible.

NEW EDITION.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE narrative which follows has been carefully founded upon facts obtained from the most trustworthy material—written and verbal—at the disposal of the writer. Since its publication in 1882 the little book has been extremely popular: versions in various languages have been issued, and an American edition has been prepared. It need only be added that the text of this edition has been read by the accomplished authoress, that some statistical information has been added, and that a considerable number of the illustrations are new.

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INTRODUCTION.

BY REV. EDWARD W. GILMAN, D. D.,
SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

NOT a long story this, but one full of pathos, of a little girl in North Wales, a hundred years ago, who hoarded her pennies for six long years that she might save enough to buy a Bible, and who then walked twenty-five miles, from Llanfihangel to Bala, in her bare feet, to procure the treasure which she had so long desired to own. We mark the record of her desire and faith: "Oh if I had but a Bible of my own!" "I must have a Bible of my own, if I save up for it for ten years." "I shall never rest until I have a Bible of my own." "Though I have waited so long, the time will come when I shall have my Bible." "Dear Lord, let the time come quickly." The fulfilment of her cherished wish rounds out the record of a personal incident and leads us to share the maiden's joy that at last she became the owner of a Bible in her own tongue.

But the pathos of the story is less important than its connection with a great movement which has to do with the enlightenment and welfare of all nations in all coming time.

“Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth.” It may be only a spark, but in one moment it becomes a blaze, and if rightly used, its radiance and warmth yield a perpetual blessing. Mary Jones could not prepare her weekly lesson for the Sunday-school because in her father’s house there was neither Bible nor Testament. Every Saturday she walked to a farmhouse two miles away, because there only could she see a copy of the sacred volume. Her parents were poor weavers, but even if they had been well-to-do, Bibles in Welsh were not only costly, but rare, and no one had yet conceived the idea of making the book so portable and so cheap that a copy of God’s Word might be found in every dwelling.

But when the story of Mary Jones became known through the Rev. Mr. Charles, of Bala, who supplied her need, when it suggested to God-fearing men the possible condition of thousands of youth in other cottages in Wales, when it revealed to lovers of the Bible the intense desire for the book felt by those who had never had it in their homes, Christian sympathy was