

Mat

-Rheims Bible

by Nicholas Mario Bruno¹

accompany Carey to Philadelphia. Thus, at 24 years of age, Carey, forced to leave his homeland, decided to settle in Philadelphia in 1760.

While in Philadelphia, Carey published over 1,500 works including works that he wrote himself. Some of his works, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, were political in nature. Carey also published some of the classics for

Pennsylvania _____ n the 1800 election. This appointment enabled
Carey to acquire the loans he needed for his business.

Background of the Time

various and hitherto hostile denominations of Christians, will afford one proof among many that might be produced of the rapid advances that America has made in the divine principle of

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At least one Protestant, Benjamin Rush, accepted this challenge and bought the Bible from Carey although the vast majority of subscribers were Catholic.

Mathew Carey Bible

The Mathew Carey Bible was printed on December 1, 1790, by Carey through his firm Carey, Stewart, and Company. Carey had secured 471 subscriptions prior to printing the Bible and printed about 500 copies of the Bible which he sold for \$6 a copy. In contrast to previous versions of the Douay-
the Bible in a single quarto-sized edition. This edition also featured large margins and a binding designed to attract attention.

Mathew Carey was supported by leaders in the Catholic Church in America. Bishop John Carroll supported Carey in publishing the Bible through both his approval and his work to help secure subscriptions for the Bible. About 49% of the subscriptions for the Bible came from Philadelphia residents. Among those who subscribed for the Bible was Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and founder of the Philadelphia Bible Society. A few of the famous historical figures who subscribed were John Barry, the first Naval officer commissioned by George Washington; Charles Carroll, another signer of the Declaration of Independence; Edmund Nugent, a British admiral and member of the British Parliament; and Jacob Rush, a justice on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Mathew Carey Bible in the Dunham Bible Museum belonged to John Councill, a resident of Philadelphia.

⁵ "Under the benign sun," P460.

Bishop Carroll suggested that the Bible should be printed in separate volumes, one for the Old Testament and one for the New Testament, so that those who could not afford the entire Bible could at least buy one of the volumes. However, Carey decided to print the entire Bible in one volume.

Carey's printing of the Douay-Rheims translation of the Bible was the second complete English Bible printed in the U.S., but was a commercial success unlike the first American printing of the English Bible . The Mathew Carey Bible was only the third complete edition, including both the Old and New Testaments, of the

