

**AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF
OUR AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION
OF THE HOLY BIBLE, AND OF THE
TRANSLATORS**

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An authentic account of our authorized translation of the Holy Bible, and of the translators by Henry John Todd

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HENRY JOHN TODD

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AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF
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OF THE
HOLY BIBLE,
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THE TRANSLATORS:



WITH TESTIMONIES
TO THE EXCELLENCE OF THE TRANSLATION.

COLLECTED BY
THE REV. HENRY JOHN TODD, M.A.
CHAPLAIN IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY,
AND ARCHDEACON OF CLEVELAND.

THIRD EDITION.

OXFORD,
JOHN HENRY PARKER;
J. G. AND F. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD AND
WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON.

1838.

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P R E F A C E.

IN a brief Letter on our Authorized Translation of the Bible, lately addressed to his Parishioners by an exemplary and learned Incumbent in the district to which I belong, it is stated, that in his parish (as in other places) tracts have been circulated, "one of the objects of which is to persuade the reader that our English Bible is very corrupt, and has been even wilfully corrupted by the persons who translated it from the original tongues." In the Letter the writer therefore justly observes, that it is the duty of our Clergy to come forward, and contradict this as well as other unfounded assertions in regard to the *Religion of Protestants*. So to his observation I respectfully attend with my humble offering in the following pages; which, with many more, were,

* A Letter from a Minister to his Parishioners, to caution them from the attempts now made to turn them from the true Protestant faith. Dat. Coxwold, Sept. 19, 1832, eight pages 12mo p. 3.

from writers of acknowledged authority, and from other valuable sources of information not so generally known, by me carefully compiled nearly fifteen years since, in vindication not only of the AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION, but also of preceding English versions of the Bible; and by the public were favourably received. I have now also made some additions to that account of the present Translation.

To persons who may have been tempted, as in the district I have named or in other places, to give heed unto delusion—to the general reader indeed—the present selection is accordingly addressed; which gives a distinct account, how the Translators were fully prepared, and in no respect deficient, to the good work they undertook; and how the Translation was completed in conformity to the minute directions that it might be accurate.

So beautifully, as well as faithfully, is this Translation made, that the original from which it is taken, it has been justly observed^b, is alone superior to it. Certainly, from its first appearance to the present time, it has been the admiration of all the truly learned and impartial in every

^b Pref. to Dr. A. Clarke's edit. of the Holy Bible, 1825, p. xxi.

country to which it has found its way, as well as of all such persons in our own. The excellent Translators indeed said, that if they should "be traduced by popish persons at home and abroad, who would therefore malign them, because they were poor instruments to make God's holy truth to be yet more and more known unto the people whom they desire still to keep in darkness and ignorance; or if, on the other side, they should be maligned by self-conceited brethren, who run their own ways, and give liking unto nothing but what is framed by themselves and hammered on their own anvil;" they "rested secure" on the truth, the simplicity, the integrity, which had guided their proceedings. They have since *rested thus secure*; and on their learning, their fidelity, our countrymen, regardless of pretences that a new Translation is required, may also *securely rest*.

H. J. TODD.

March 6, 1834.

^c Dedication of the Translators to King James I. prefixed to many Editions of our Bibles.

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CHAPTER I.

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF KING JAMES THE FIRST FOR
THE TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY BIBLE, WHICH
IS CALLED THE AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION; AND
WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE YEAR 1611.

ON the accession of King James to the throne of Great Britain, the Puritans petitioned him on several matters respecting the doctrine and discipline of the Church. Between their leaders and certain Bishops and Deans he accordingly appointed, by proclamation, a Conference, which commenced at Hampton Court on the 12th of January, 1603-4. Among the topics, that of a new Translation of the Bible was one: which, however, occupied very little time and observation, in comparison with other subjects. What was said, induced the King, however, to express "his wish", that some especial pains should be taken *for one*^b *uniform Trans-*

^a Sum and Substance of the Conference at Hampton Court by Dr. Barlow, Dean of Chester, p. 46.

^b "One uniform Translation of the Bible to be made, and only to be used in all the Churches of England." And,

lation; professing that he could never yet see a Bible well translated in English; but the worst of all he thought the Geneva to be." As to the general censure, it can imply no more than that as yet he had seen no English Bible, in which there were not passages capable of improved translation; otherwise he would have been guilty of great inconsistency, in directing the Translators, as we shall presently find, to follow^c six of these versions; and one of them, by way of eminence, to be as little altered as the truth of the original would permit. As to the particular censure upon the Geneva Translation, it was probably uttered for private reasons, (it has been well observed^d;) unconnected with its merits as a translation: for indeed against the notes only, annexed to that Translation, his Majesty publicly contended, pronouncing and shewing some of them to be "very partial, untrue, seditious, and savouring too much of dangerous and traitorous conceits^e."

"without notes." See Strype's Life of Abp. Whitgift, pp. 575, 576.

^c See among the instructions for the Translators presently recited, the first and fourteenth.

^d Dr. Whittaker, now Vicar of Blackburn, Lancashire, in his learned Historical and Critical Inquiry into the Interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Cambridge, 1819, p. 64.

^e Conf. at Hampton Court, ut supr. pp. 47, 48.