

**COMPARISON OF BODMER'S
TRANSLATION OF
MILTON'S PARADISE LOST
WITH THE ORIGINAL: THESIS**

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Comparison of Bodmer's Translation of Milton's Paradise Lost with the Original: Thesis by
George Burrige Viles

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GEORGE BURRIDGE VILES

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COMPARISON
OF
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WITH THE ORIGINAL.

THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of Cornell University
For the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
BY
GEORGE BURRIDGE VILES.

Cornell University
1902.

Leipzig 1903
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TO
HORATIO S. WHITE
THIS THESIS IS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED.

Preface.

When I selected the subject of a comparison of Bodmer's translation of Milton's *Paradise Lost* with the original, I set myself the task of recording all variations of the German from the original, consisting in inaccuracies, omissions of passages of greater or lesser length, of grammatical, logical, and stylistic changes.¹⁾ As I proceeded, however, with my work of comparison, I found that Bodmer had followed the original so closely and accurately, that my labor was reduced largely to categorizing the variations in word, phrase, and clause, — such variations being due, in large measure, to the difference in idiom of the two languages. It may not greatly interest the casual reader to know how many times an adverbial idea is expressed in English by a single word (adverb), and in German by a prepositional phrase — or vice versa. But the ascertaining of this fact and of all other facts of variation has on the one hand constituted a laborious undertaking for me, while on the other it has yielded abundant fruit in a better grasp of the genius of the foreign tongue. And there was withal a certain satisfaction in following, step by step, the translator's work of love. If the results of one's labor can be a contribution to literary science, the literary world is the gainer thereby; if this end cannot be attained — then the advantage belongs to the workman, and his reward must be sought in the virtue of the work itself. Hence comes my satisfaction.

¹⁾ As in the case of a thesis by Marcus Simpson, who preceded me in this class of work with a comparison of Wieland's translation of 22 of Shakespeare's plays with the original. Published at Munich, 1898.

PREFACE.

I have endeavored to bring together in an introduction all the facts bearing upon Bodmer's first acquaintance with the English language and English literature and to arrange them in a logical order so as to form a consecutive and complete narrative of this event, so important for German literature. Certain phases of the subject have been worked up by Gustav Jenny in a thesis on Milton's poem in the German literature of the eighteenth century, and by Hans Bodmer in an essay on the beginnings of the Zürich Milton, to both of whom I am indebted for most of my material — especially certain important, unpublished, letters in a private library in Trogen, and in the City-Library of Zürich, as well as for quotations from works that were inaccessible to me. Other writers whose works in particular have helped me are Bächtold, Mörkofer, Vetter, Braitmaier, and Edmond Scherer. I would direct special attention to the appreciative and sympathetic work done by Hans and Hermann Bodmer in conjunction with Theodore Vetter and others in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Jacob Bodmer. A complete bibliography is given at the close of the introduction.¹⁾

¹⁾ Pages XXXI—XXXII.

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