THE REVISERS' ENGLISH. A SERIES OF CRITICISMS, SHOWING THE REVISERS' VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE LANGUAGE

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THE REVISERS' ENGLISH.

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THE NEW TESTAMENT REVISERS, 1870–1880.

THE

REVISERS' ENGLISH.

With Photographs of the Revisers.

A SERIES OF CRITICISMS, SHOWING THE REVISERS' VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE LANGUAGE.

BY

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"Bad grammar is injustice to truth."

—*The* Rev. JOSEPH ANGUS, D.D.,
One of the Revisers.

LONDON:
HATCHARDS, PICCADILLY
1882.

Dedicated

TO THE MEMORY OF MY ANCESTOR,

THOMAS ALDAM,

OF WARMSWORTH, IN THE COUNTY OF YORK.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST MEMBERS

OF

"THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS."

A good man, who died in peace with all men, and loving trust in God, A.D. 1660.

The Bible was to him his greatest treasure; and preaching its truths, his greatest delight. But he was persecuted, he was reviled, he was buffeted, he was spit upon, and for conscience' sake he suffered the spoiling of his goods, and endured years of cruel imprisonment. However, the knowledge of his own rectitude and of God's love sustained him through it all; and, on his release, being moved with sympathy for his companions in tribulation, he visited and condoled with them in the various prisons throughout the kingdom, and drew up a report of the wrongs and sufferings of his co-religionists, and personally laid it before Oliver Cromwell, and pleaded repeatedly, in the name of humanity and justice, that they might be liberated. His petition being finally rejected, he fearlessly denounced the Protector to his face for his tyranny, and predicted the downfall of his government.—See "Encyclopædia Britannica," 8th edition, vol. xviii., p. 718.

PREFACE.

I AM surprised to find myself, after a silence of fifteen years, again engaged in controversy on the Queen's English. I am not a lover of contention, but of peace. There was a time when I could say, "I delight in a wordy warfare with one who wields his weapon well;" but now, my joy is not in the unrest of battle, but in the restfulness of the Beautiful—the Beautiful in deed and in word.

It may be that it is my excessive love of the beautiful, which makes me so keenly sensitive to anything that mars it; and certainly it is the hope of preserving and perfecting that which is beautiful in our language that has impelled me to engage in the task of

exposing the Revisers' errors in it in the New Testament—a task from which I should have shrunk, were it not that I regard the Bible as the Temple of God's Truth, and therefore a sacred sanctuary for the shrine of the Beautiful, the defence of which is incumbent upon every man.

The mind which allows itself complacently to delight in anything below the highest standard of excellence, is thereby dwarfing its faculties; for we become assimilated to that which we worship, and are ennobled or debased by the influence of that upon which our minds dwell with satisfaction. From this circumstance arises the necessity for aiming at perfection in all things; and if language is that which pre-eminently distinguishes man from the beasts, the attainment of perfection in language is worthy of our most studious efforts. Language is the vehicle of thought; and, in the Bible, it is the vehicle of God's thoughts; therefore, if perfection in language ought to be looked for anywhere, it ought to