

**OUR ENGLISH BIBLE
AND ITS
ANCESTORS**

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Our English Bible and its ancestors by Treadwell Walden

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TREADWELL WALDEN

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AND ITS
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BY

TREADWELL WALDEN,
RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, INDIANAPOLIS.



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To

The Congregation

of

St. Paul's Cathedral, Indianapolis,

This Account of the Origin and Growth

of

the English Bible,

—already given to them in the form of Lectures—

is

Affectionately Dedicated.



PREFACE.

THE design of this little volume is to give a descriptive narrative of the long and remarkable struggle of the Bible into English—through policies of state, through dogmas of the church, through crudities of public opinion and through changes in the language—with a view: First, to suggest a greater reverence than ever for a work so wisely and heroically produced, and second, to prepare the ordinary reader to form an intelligent idea of the movement toward a more perfect and readable

Bible, which has already begun, and which is certain, if that movement retains the impetus of its history, not to stop until its end be accomplished.

The full account, external and internal, of the English Bible has never yet been written, and all the numerous works which have been composed on the subject, are only contributions to it, but when exhaustively executed it will prove to be a wonderful and fascinating story, not alone to scholars and divines, but to any mind which is aware of the exquisite delicacy of language in itself as a material to be wrought up, of the growth and development of the peculiar English of the Bible, and is quick to see the changes on its surface made by the passing clouds of the century in which it rose into being.

This brief narrative, drawn from many of these sources, it is hoped may give the reader a vivid general impression of the singular evo-

lution of Bible out of Bible until the present noble Version was achieved.

As these pages were written and delivered first in the form of parochial lectures, any redundant picturesqueness of illustration will be sufficiently accounted for by that fact, and doubtless pardoned.

T. W.

St. Paul's Cathedral,
Indianapolis, May 1871.





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