

**ENGLAND'S EULOGY,
WRITTEN IN
ARMENIAN VERSE.
TEXT AND TRANSLATION**

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England's eulogy, written in Armenian verse. Text and translation by James Grigorentz

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JAMES GRIGORENTZ

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ENGLAND'S

EULOGY

WRITTEN IN ARMENIAN VERSE

BY THE REV. JAMES GRIGORENZ

A. D. 1675

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

S. LAZARUS — VENICE

1875

PREFACE

The author of this curious little work, to whom we leave all responsibility for the ideas therein expressed, says enough about himself. The Original Armenian manuscript is preserved in the Bodleian Library, under the head Thurston, 17. There is another MS. (357, Marshall, 106.) which contains an Armenian Liturgy, written by the same author, in which he gives some further details about himself.

“On the 12th. December (1674) - he writes - I
“ arrived at Oxford, and called directly upon Dr.
“ Marshall, to whom I had a letter of introduction.
“ I found him a very learned man, acquainted with
“ many languages, who in his old age wishes also
“ to learn our Armenian language. And I, the poor
“ sinful Dr. James Grigorenz, come here desiring

* to see countries; and I was obliged to remain
 * here on account of the winter; because either
 * by sea or land this is not the season to travel.
 * If God gives me help I shall go on the first of
 * April from hence to our country, Armenia.
 * Adieu, my Brethren, be happy for the glory of
 * our Lord J. C. * ! *

In another Manuscript, a Missal (N.47, Arch.)
 is written: * I, Der (Rev.) Hagop (James) Grigo-
 * renz, an Armenian Priest, wrote this little
 * treatise by request of the Most Illustrious Dr.
 * Marshal, in the city of Oxford, on the 8th of
 * January, 1675, or according to the Armenian
 * almanac, on Friday the 8th. January, 1124*. **

The author's reason for going to England,
 was, by his own confession, the desire «to see the
 world»: and it was, methinks, pretty strong:
 because we find his traces in several countries.
 About two years before the time above alluded
 to, the Philologist Andr. Acholutus (1) saw him in
 the Museum of Lipsia, and being informed by
 him of the existence of an Armenian edition of the
 Bible, (2) asked for a copy; which Dr. James,
 procured from the East, and presented to him a
 year afterwards.

* See the text at the end.

(1) Professor at the Elisabethan Gymnasium of Breslau, † in
 1704. He gives us this notice in his *Obedias Armenus*, Lipsia, 1680.

(2) Oscan's princeps editio, Amsterdam, 1666.

About ten years later (1684) we find James among our Armenian Colony, at Lemberg in Poland, where he transcribed another Missal and a Ritual, at the end of which, written in verses in his own language, he says: "I loved Poland, where in the town of Lwov (Lemberg), I wrote this Ritual Liturgy, and offered it to my countrymen, for the use of the priests, and finished it the year of our Lord 1684. I, the most humble James am called Grigorenz (son of Gregory). Those who possess this book so coarsely written, are entreated to pray for me its unworthy Author."***

We have no other information about our author than that which he gives of himself in his work; and what he says "To little Boys" shows that he wore the oriental costume while at Oxford, as also a large beard, a terror to the English boys, who avoided him as if he had been a negromancer. But Acholutus speaks of him in quite another way: "Vir natione Armenus, stature mediocris, facie subflave et rubicunde, capillitij nigri ac nonnihil crispatis, vegetioris ætatis, Jacobus de Gregoriis, Presbiter; quem varias alioque sub sole repostas perlustrandi terrarum partes, pariter discedere amor jusserat, veniam prius a Superioribus sibi concessa."

The long panegyric addressed to Vice-Chancellor Bathurst, gives assurance as to his kind reception of James; and that it was this kind reception which prompted the dedication, in these

lines: "Reverendissimo, Doctissimoque Viro, Domino
 " Radulpho Bathurst, Vice-Cancellario Academiæ
 " Oxoniensis, etc., Iacobi de Gregoriis, natione
 " Armeni et Armenorum Presbiteri, Elogium
 " Britannicæ, et Gratiarum actio pro acceptis ex
 " Academiâ Oxonensi beneficiis, Carmine Arme-
 " nico. Feb. 7. 1675 .".

I feel certain that the benevolence which the
 Doctors of the University manifested to our
 Author in his day, and which in later times the
 translator also proved when he discovered the
 manuscript in the Bodleian, in 1852, will readily
 permit this publication of the *England's Eulogy*,
 just 200 years after it was written.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THESE IRREGULAR VERSES WERE COMPOSED
BY JAMES GRIGORENZ, AN ARMENIAN PRIEST,
FOR THESE BRITISH ISLES
AND THEIR INHABITANTS GREAT AND SMALL
AND IN GENERAL FOR ALL PRESENT.

ԱՆՈՐՀԵՍ ՈՏԱՆԱՌՐՍ ԱՍՆՆԵՒԼ
ՏԱԿՈՑ ԳՐԻԳՈՐԵՆՆԵ ՀԱՅՈՑ ՔՐԷՄԱՍԻՍ,
ՎԱՍՆ ԱՏՍԻ ԳՐԻՓԱՆԵՍԱ ԿՂՋԻՆՏՍ,
ԵՒ ԱՏԻՑ ԲԱՆԱԿԱՆԱՑ ԸԵՆԻ ԵՒ ՓՅՓՈՒ
ԱՌ ՀԱՍՏԲՈՎ ԱՅԻՆՆԵՑՈՒՆ,
ՈՐԳ ԷՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՑ ԱՏՍԻ ԺԱՐԱՆԱԿԻ:

ԳՈՎՔ ՊՐԻԹԱՆԻՈՅ

ՆԱԻ ԱՅՍԾ ԹԵ ՈՐՊԵՍ ԵԿԻ ԱՅՍ ԿՂՋԻՍ.

Սրկրորդ Քարոզուս Թագաւորի
Ժամանակուն՝ ես ասա հըպի:
Նախ և առաջ Հարվի՞ն եկի,
Յամբով է Լոնտինուս մըտի:
Պայծառ քաղաք է գոյելի,
Քրիստոնեայք զարգարեայք բարի.
Հիւրասեր քնքնօգք սիրելի.
Իազուս էր ինչ հարցին ինձի:
Արդցիս այսմիկ Պրիթանիա,
Պարտեւայ է ծովն բզա.
Ով որ կտփ այս կըզցիս գայ՝
Պարտ է ծովին սղն ունենայ.
Թէ զոր ցամաք նախ բաղիանայ.
Պիտի երկրիս լեզուն գիտենայ.
Թէ կակընծէ՝ ոչ իմանայ,
Մազը աշխարհիս պիտի լինայ.
Թէ իմաստուն է՝ ընտրել,
Զքերականն շատ բընարրել.
Զբարգիւրքն ծայրն պահէ,
Զինչ կամի՝ շուտով հարցանէ.
Այս կերպիւքս թէ ոչ գիտէ,
Ինձ նքման ողորմելի է.