

**THE BOOK OF PSALMS: A METRICAL
VERSION IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE OF
SEVENTY OF THE
PSALM, MOST COMMONLY USED IN
CHURCHES: TO WHICH ARE ADDED
SOME HYMNS AND SACRED SONGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649084555

The Book of Psalms: a Metrical Version in the Irish Language of Seventy of the Psalm, Most Commonly Used in Churches: To Which Are Added Some Hymns and Sacred Songs by William Kilbride

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM KILBRIDE

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Some of the above, although partly completed, have been discontinued for some years past, but will be resumed again, should my fellow-countrymen show any desire to encourage native Irish Literature. The Author hopes that, if published, they might tend to effect some good.

ARRAN ISLAND, GALWAY,
Sept. 4, 1853.

THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

Bible - O.T.

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A Metrical Version

IN

THE IRISH LANGUAGE,

OF

SEVENTY OF THE PSALMS,

MOST COMMONLY USED IN CHURCHES:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED SOME

Hymns and Sacred Songs.

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM KILBRIDE, A. B.,

Incumbent of the Arona Isles.

DUBLIN:

PUBLISHED

By the Society for Irish Church Missions,

12, D'OLIER-STREET.

SOLD BY

GEORGE HERBERT, 117, GRAFTON-STREET.

1863.

~~Cat 446.9~~
~~IV. 7899~~

Harvard College Library
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PREFACE.

THE Psalms of David have ever been a source of comfort to Christian hearts. The same Holy Spirit who gave the Psalmist power to express the thoughts and feelings that arose under particular circumstances, in such comprehensive words that they could convey deeper feelings and more stirring thoughts, employs these precious songs to speak out the overflowing abundance of Christian experience. Wherever, therefore, the Divine Word has been translated into any language, the people that use that tongue have rejoiced in possessing this portion of God's inspired communication with His people.

The Psalms are songs; and in the language in which they were written, they are adapted for the lively expression of feeling which finds

its natural vent in singing. They are arranged in metre, which makes the sentences flow in an easy and sweet current, which of itself may be said to be musical, even though the voice gives no combination of varied sounds. In many languages attempts have been made to imitate this beauty of the Hebrew Psalms; and though no such attempt has ever reached, or was expected to reach, the peculiar excellence of the original metre, yet have the Christian worshippers in various tongues been provided with a means of singing the praises of God, and the experience of their hearts, in the thoughts of the Psalmist, as well as reading them in the words he was inspired to use.

The Sacred Scriptures, both of the Old and the New Testament, have long been placed within the reach of the people who speak the Irish language; and it is a subject for devout thankfulness that an increasing number of them are availing themselves of so great a blessing. Wherever those Sacred Scriptures are brought to the minds of the people, the Holy Spirit gives them power in some hearts;

and the light and life thus received seek expression in a lively manner, and the joyous Christians turn to the songs of the saints of old, in which to sing their own new feelings.

The present is an attempt to afford to the Irish-speaking people the same opportunity of using the Psalms in metre and in singing, which many other nations possess. The Seventy Psalms now published have been thus rendered, and are submitted to Irish Christians, with earnest prayer that the Holy Spirit may condescend to bless the effort for the promotion of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for the comfort and advantage of His people.

The Author of this Metrical Version has placed his work at the disposal of a Society which is actively engaged in promoting the effectual influence of the Holy Scriptures amongst the Irish Roman-catholics. The Society for Irish Church Missions have been encouraged by the gathering of many congregations of worshippers into the Scriptural Church of Ireland; and they rejoice to have it in their power to place this work in the hands of those

members of such congregations who speak the Irish language; while at the same time they trust that it may be beneficial to other congregations similarly gathered by the Irish Society, the Island and Coast Society, &c. A few Hymns and Sacred Songs are added, which are humbly submitted to the judgment of the Irish Christian student.

Before agreeing to the proposal of the Author as to the publication of this work, the Committee of the Society for Irish Church Missions submitted the manuscript to the judgment of two native Irish-speaking Clergymen in whom they have full confidence; and the opinion they expressed justifies the Committee in undertaking the publication, which they do in the earnest hope that it may please God to make it useful amongst His people.

IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS OFFICE,
12, D'Olier-street, Dublin,
July, 1863.