

**A VINDICATION OF THE HYMN TE  
DEUM LAUDAMUS, FROM  
ERRORS AND  
MIFREPREFENTATIONS OF A  
THOUFAND YEARS**

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A Vindication of the Hymn Te Deum Laudamus, from Errors and Mifrepresentations of a  
Thoufand Years by Ebenezer Thomson

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**EBENEZER THOMSON**

**A VINDICATION OF THE HYMN TE  
DEUM LAUDAMUS, FROM  
ERRORS AND  
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OF A THOUFAND YEARS**



*A Vindication of the Hymn*  
**TE DEUM LAUDAMUS,**  
From Errors and Misrepresentations of  
a Thousand Years.

WITH TRANSLATIONS INTO VARIOUS LANGUAGES,  
ANCIENT AND MODERN.  
And a PARAPHRASE in OLD ENGLISH, now first printed  
from the original MS.

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"I will sing with the spirit, and ... with the understanding also."

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BY EBENEZER THOMSON, ESQ.

Author of *German-English Analogies, an Essay on "The Archaic  
Mode of expressing Numbers in Anglo-Saxon,"* &c.  
Editor of "*Select Monuments of Doctrine and Worship,*" &c.  
A.-S., Latin, and English.

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## PREFACE.

**W**HEN an author who has no pretension to literary fame, comes before the public as a corrector of supposed errors, or an advocate of new views in regard to a subject with which every one of his readers must have been long and intimately acquainted, it is naturally expected that he should exhibit some proof of his qualification for the office—that his correction is made with judgement, and his views taken under a proper light. Though a perusal of the little volume may satisfy a candid inquirer upon this point, at

no great expense of time or labour, yet some may desire to have the means of judging beforehand what probability there is of any benefit to be derived from that employment of the time and labour. For the encouragement of such as are willing to judge for themselves, it might be sufficient to refer to an extract from the Gentleman's Magazine, (printed in the Appendix,) in which I state the occasion which led me to an investigation of the subject more than thirty years ago; from which it will appear that the question was so far from being fought by me as a ground of quarrel or controversy, that it forced itself upon me in the course of my professional occupation and literary research.

From the year 1823, in which this occurred, it was not until 1845 that I had the opportunity of making

the exact research, and critical examination, and collation of MSS., editions, and translations, which the case required. The result of that investigation was so satisfactory, and seemed so important, both in a literary, and a religious point of view, that I felt myself bound, in duty to the sacred theme, to the Author of my faculties, and to my fellow-Christians, no longer to suppress the light which my inquiries had thrown upon the subject.

Having, through the recommendation of a learned friend, obtained permission to communicate my views to the public in the respectable periodical mentioned above, I began with a correction of some serious errors into which our most eminent Saxon scholars have fallen, and my observations being well received by many who were qualified to judge in the

matter, I proceeded to the more important subject, upon which this appeal to the public is founded.

My first notice of a few cases of mistranslation in the "Gloria Patri," and the "Te Deum," called forth a worthy son of the Church, whose name or actual position I never learnt, eminently fitted by ingenuity, learning, and zeal, to appear as counsel for the defence. Ably and faithfully, with all fairness and courtesy, he supported the cause of the received reading, and rendered effectual aid in the searching ventilation to which I desired to see the subject exposed. Relying more upon the soundness of my views than upon any art of reasoning, or force of eloquence, in conducting the argument, I maintained my cause with the earnestness and perseverance which a persuasion of its justice and importance could