

**THE BISHOP'S ENGLISH: A SERIES
OF CRITICISMS ON THE RIGHT
REV. BISHOP THORNTON'S
LAUDATION OF THE REVISED
VERSION OF THE SCRIPTURES**

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The bishop's English: a series of criticisms on the Right Rev. Bishop Thornton's laudation of the revised version of the Scriptures by G. Washington Moon

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G. WASHINGTON MOON

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Geo. Washington Moon

THE BISHOP'S ENGLISH: A SERIES OF CRITICISMS

On the Right Rev. Bishop Thornton's Laudation of
THE REVISED VERSION OF THE SCRIPTURES;
AND ALSO ON THE
ENGLISH OF THE REVISERS,

SHOWING THAT THE VERSION PUT FORTH BY THEM, AND LIKEWISE
THE AUTHORISED VERSION, CONTAIN ERRORS AGAINST
RELIGION AND MORALS SO UNPARDONABLE AS
TOTALLY TO UNFIT THEM FOR CIRCULATION,

And that it is slandering GOD to call either of them
HIS WORD.

BY
GEO. WASHINGTON MOON, *Hon. F.R.S.L.*,
AUTHOR OF "THE DEAN'S ENGLISH," "THE REVISERS' ENGLISH," ETC.

With the Author's Portrait.

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1904

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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's sake he suffered the robbing 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 consoled with them in the various prisons throughout the kingdom, drew up a report of the wrongs and sufferings of his co-religionists, 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.—"Encyclopædia Britannica," 8th edition, vol. xviii. p. 719.

221591

ABBREVIATIONS
EMPLOYED IN THIS WORK

A.V.—Authorised Version.

R.V.—Revised Version.

C.A.—Codex Alexandrinus.

C.S.—Codex Sinaiticus.

C.V.—Codex Vaticanus.

PREFACE.

THE English language is the common property of us all for our mutual benefit; and our duty is strenuously to oppose all corrupting influences which would mar the beauty of the language, weaken its force, and degrade it from its proud prerogative of being a sacred shrine for our noblest aspirations.

Hence the compilation of this work, which consists of criticisms on the English of the Revisers and on the English of the Right Reverend Bishop Thornton, the latest advocate on behalf of the so-called "*Revised*" Version of the Bible.

Perhaps the public, if they care at all about the matter, will not be surprised at my taking up the gauntlet which the Bishop, in publishing his essay on this subject, has thus thrown down; for, I do so in defence of a position which I carried at the point of the pen, forty years ago in combat with the late Dean Alford, and twenty years ago in combat with the Revisers and their champions.

I am an old man now, being in my eightieth year, and consequently am not so "keen of fence" as I was then; but I may still be able to do some-

thing which, if not redoubtable, may haply be deemed of public service in an attempted overthrow of disgraceful error.

It will be said that the fearful severity of these Criticisms demands justification. I admit it; and I am prepared to justify the severity of every criticism which I have written. But I would preface the justification by saying that, for the Revisers themselves and for their advocate, the Right Reverend Bishop Thornton, I entertain profound respect; believing them to be conscientious men. They did their best; and no man could do more.

But, in their zeal for the Truth, they erred in undertaking work for which they were not qualified. Profound Hebrew and Greek scholars they probably were; but unquestionably they were lamentably deficient in the knowledge of their own mother tongue—*e.g.* what Englishman who is master of his own language would ever think of writing such a sentence as the following, unless he wished to convey the idea that GOD has a brother whom it is our duty to love! "*This commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*"—1 John iv. 21.

Sometimes the ideas are blasphemous; as in Rev. xiv. 10, where the pronoun "*he*" grammati-

cally refers to GOD; while the pronoun "*their*" grammatically refers to HIM and to the holy angels and to the Lamb. The passage is as follows:—
"*... the wine of the wrath of GOD, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of HIS anger; and HE shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of THE HOLY ANGELS, and in the presence of THE LAMB: and the smoke of THEIR torment goeth up for ever and ever.*"

In Rom. i. 27, the most degrading obscenity is palliated by being euphemistically designated an "*error*." The Greek word means "*wandering*"; but, in the New Testament, it means that wandering from the right path which is due to wilful corruption; consequently our word "*error*" does not adequately convey the meaning of the Greek.

In 1 Cor. vii. 36, the shocking crime of incest between father and daughter is declared to be *not sinful!*

Sometimes the ideas are humorous; as in Gen. vi. 16-22, where it says that Noah had "*stories*" [not storeys] in the ark; as if the patriarch had provided himself with a little light literature for rainy days.

And sometimes the language is execrably infelicitous in its suggestiveness; as in Job xx. 15, where we read of riches, under the similitude of food, which, it is said, "*he shall vomit up again.*"