BEOWULF: AN EPIC POEM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649072873

Beowulf: An Epic Poem by A. Diedrich Wackerbarth

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A. DIEDRICH WACKERBARTH

BEOWULF: AN EPIC POEM



BEOWULF

AN ANGLO-SAXON

POEM

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

Uns ist in alten Mæren Wunders vil geseit, Von Helden lobebæren, von gröser Kuonheit, Von Fröuden höchgestten, von Weinen und von Klagen, Von küener Recken Striten, maget ir au Wunder hæren sagen. Nibetungen Nöt.

BEOWULF

AN EPIC POEM

TRANSLATED FROM THE ANGLO-SAXON INTO ENGLISH VERSE

BY

A. DIEDRICH WACKERBARTH, A.B.

PROPERTY OF ANGLO-BAION AT THE COLLEGE OF OUR LAPTH OF ORCOTY, HON. COR. MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, MEMBER OF THE COPENELGEN ROYAL ARTIGCARIAN SOCIETY AND OF THE LONDON ROYAL ARTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



LONDON WILLIAM PICKERING 1849

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

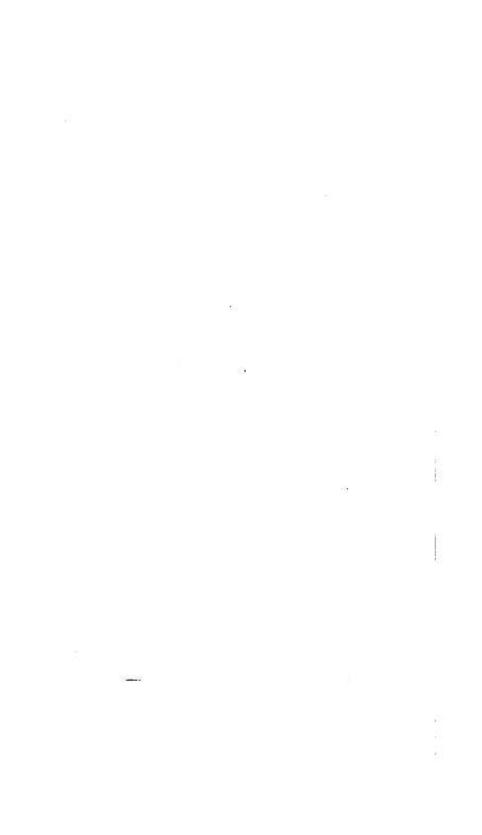
NICOLAS WISEMAN, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF MELIPOTAMUS

VICAR APOSTOLIC

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PREFACE.

F the Drudges who do the lowlier Work in the Tillage of Learning's Vineyard, few perhaps will be met with who have a more thankless Task than the Translator: for not only has he to bear the just Lash of enlightened Criticism from the Scholar, (whereof of course he can have no Right to complain,) but those to whom his Original must, but for his Toil, have remained for ever a sealed Book, and who are utterly incapable either of testing his Accuracy or appreciating his Difficulties, lay Load upon him without Mercy, and make him answerable not only for his own Errors, but for any Obscurities which may exist in his Original, as well as for their own blundering Misconceptions of his or his Author's Meaning.—In short he is called to account not only for his own Faults but likewise for the Ignorance of many of his Readers. It is true the Qualifications necessary for a Translator into the Vernacular are but of a humble Character; a fair Knowledge of his Original's and his Country's Languages, sufficient common Sense to understand his Author, sufficient Taste to choose his Expressions wisely, and a conscientious Regard to Faithfulness from the Consideration that with the Many he is the Trustee of his Author's Reputation, are all that is required of him. Still a Translator has serious Difficulties to encounter, which they only can appreciate who know them from actual Trial.

With respect to the Work now presented to the Public, shortly after the putting forth of Mr. Kemble's Edition of the Anglo-Saxon Text in 1833 I formed the Design of translating it, and early in 1837 I commenced the Work. Mr. Kemble's second Volume had not then appeared, and I proceeded but slowly, on account of the Difficulty of the Work, and the utter Inadequacy of any then existing Dictionary. Istill however wrought my Way onward, under the Notion that even if I should not think my Book, when finished, fit for Publication, yet that the MS. would form an amusing Tale for my little Nephews and Nieces, and so I went through about a Quarter of the Poem, when Illness put an entire stop to my Progress. Afterwards, though the Appearance of Mr. Kemble's additional Volume, containing the Prose Version, Glossary, &c. had rendered the remainder of my Task comparatively easy, other Matters required my Attention, and the MS. lay untouched till 1842, between which Time and the present it has been from Time to Time added to and at length completed, and the whole carefully revised, much being cancelled and retranslated. In my Version I have scrupulously adhered to the Text of Mr. Kemble, adopting in almost every Instance