# REMARKS ON DR. HENDERSON'S APPEAL TO THE BIBLE SOCIETY, ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TURKISH VERSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT PRINTED AT PARIS IN 1819

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Remarks on Dr. Henderson's appeal to the Bible Society, on the subject of the Turkish version of the New Testament printed at Paris in 1819 by S. Lee

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# S. LEE

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# REMARKS

ON

# DR. HENDERSON'S APPEAL

TO

# The Bible Society,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

# TURKISH VERSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT PRINTED AT PARIS IN 1819.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

### AN APPENDIX.

CONTAINING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS ON THE CHARACTER OF THAT VERSION.

# BY THE REV. S. LEE, A.M.

D.D. OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HALLE, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PARIS, F.R.S.L. F.R.A.S. &c. AND PROFESSOR OF ARABIC IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMERIDGE.

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<sup>&</sup>quot;Qui sermone imitari se dicit Apostolos, prius imitetur virtutes in vita lliorum." Jenove.



### PREFACE.

Before we proceed to the consideration of the subject before us, it should be observed, that, in offering the following Remarks to the Public, I have not been swayed by any motives unfriendly to the writer on whose work they have been made. If, in company with others, I formerly expressed an unfavourable opinion on his criticisms, I trust the reader will give me credit when I say, I gave that opinion, not from any feelings of disrespect to him, but from my convictions that they were unimportant. Others, who have expressed similar opinions, have, no doubt, been actuated by motives no, less honourable.

The Committee of the Bible Society, who have acted upon the advice thus given, will perhaps be justified as to the measures they have adopted, when it is seen that no pains have been spared by them, in endeavouring to obtain the best information in their power: and in having proceeded with that delay and caution, which the nature of the case seemed to require.

It is certainly much to be regretted, that Dr. Henderson met the resolution of the Committee, which he has published, (p. 54), with so much precipitancy and impatience. No one, indeed, will be surprized at the importance which he has attached to his own remarks: but, that he should have demanded nothing less than an entire acquiescence in every iota which they required, must betray either a want of respect to the judgment of others, or of a knowledge of the world, which few would have expected from a person of his age and experience.

Whether the charges advanced by Dr. Henderson, or the steps taken by him on this occasion, will be borne out or not by his criticisms, it will be the business of the candid reader to judge. Were I allowed to express an opinion, on this subject, I should say, I believe the unreasonableness of his demands, as already noticed, has been exceeded only by the futility of the A difference of opinion on the use of certain words or phrases,—the omission or addition of a few words, in no way affecting the sense of the context, is the utmost that can be claimed for the far greater part of his Appeal. In many instances he has mistaken the sense of his original; in others, the meaning of the Oriental words, on which his criticisms have been made: and, in others, he has proposed words, which would either make the translation unintelligible, or afford a sense totally at variance with the original text.

The style of the version he has represented as ridiculously florid, which he supports by a translation of one passage only; and that translation is false. The main charge, indeed, of his pamphlet, rests on an erroneous passage, which he found in the book of Revelations, where the worship of the Lamb was forbidden. Upon making a little enquiry, however, he would have discovered, that the leaf containing that error had been cancelled, and the passage properly reprinted, nearly four years before his Appeal was sent to the Press. He has also asserted, that the doctrines of the divinity of our Lord, and of justification by faith in the merits of his atone-

### ERRATA.

Page 52. l. 19. read البيت المقدّس.

56. 29. linguæ Hebrææ.

## APPENDIX.

(25). l. 27. read عيسي.

(28). 26. défaut.

## CHAP. I.

THE AUTHOR'S REASONS FOR ENTERING ON THIS QUESTION. DR. HENDERSON'S CHARGES APPEAR TO BE TWO. THE WAY IN WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO MEET THEM. NOTICE OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF ALL BEY: INSINUATIONS OF THE APPEAL GROUNDLESS. ITS CHARACTER OF A CERTAIN CLASS OF TRANSLATORS ERRONEOUS. THE PRINCIPLES OF CRITICISM, ON WHICH THE QUESTION BEFORE US IS TO BE TRIED, DISCUSSED AND ESTABLISHED.

As Dr. Henderson's criticisms on the Turkish Version of the New Testament printed at Paris, have at length been brought before the Public; and, as considerable importance has been attached to them by some of their readers, I shall perhaps be excused if I offer a few remarks on them, when I assure the reader that the only motive I have for doing so is, the wish that the question may receive every consideration to which it is entitled; and that Dr. Henderson himself may see the reasons why I expressed an opinion on a former occasion, that his criticisms contained nothing of sufficient importance to warrant the suppression of the Work, on which they had been offered.