

THE ENGLISH BIBLE

A SKETCH OF ITS HISTORY

BY THE

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CAPUTH

LONDON

A. & C. BLACK: SOHO SQUARE

EDINBURGH: R. & R. CLARK, LIMITED

PUBLICATION AGENTS FOR THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

1895



EDITORIAL NOTE

ENCOURAGED by the favour with which our series of books has been received not only by those for whom they were in the first instance intended, but also by the general public in Great Britain and America, and in the British Colonies, the Editors requested Mr. Milligan to prepare the present volume on a subject of abiding interest and instruction. He has spared no pains to be both accurate and readable; and we think he has succeeded very well. Inheriting the tastes of his lamented father, he has long been familiar with the subject; and we commend his work as a compendious narrative of the growth of the English version of the Scriptures which has done so much to mould the speech and form the character of the Anglo-Saxon race.

A. H. CHARTERIS.

J. A. M'CLYMONT.

August 1895.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

PREVIOUS text-books in this series have supplied introductions to the Old and New Testaments respectively, dealing with such questions as the writers and the contents of the various books. The following pages are an attempt to tell the story of our own *English version*, and to indicate the many ages and workers that have had a share in perfecting it as a translation of the sacred text. Such an inquiry is naturally connected with much in the general history of our country and of its language and literature which, in the prescribed limits of space, it has been impossible to notice. The author trusts, however, that enough has been said to arouse the interest of those to whom the subject is new, and to stimulate them to further researches on their own behalf. To aid them in this he has appended a list of the books which, with others mentioned in the footnotes, he has himself found most useful. But above all he would recommend the consulting, wherever it is at all practicable, of the various editions of the

Bible itself, as accessible in the British Museum, the Euing collection of Bibles in the University of Glasgow, and other great libraries. "Nowhere else," it has been truly said, "does the maxim 'verify your references' apply with greater force."

The author desires further to express his indebtedness to the Rev. W. F. Moulton, D.D., Cambridge, for many acts of personal kindness connected with his work, and to the Rev. Professor Cowan, D.D., of Aberdeen, the Rev. A. Irvine Robertson, B.D., of Clackmannan, and the Editors of the series, for assistance in the revision of the proof-sheets.

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