

[NORMAL OUTLINE SERIES.]

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A  
SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
THE ENGLISH BIBLE

WITH BRIEF NOTICES OF THE TRANSLATORS

BY J. M. FREEMAN, D.D.

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"Believers should ascertain for themselves the matters of their faith by having the Scriptures in a language which they fully understand."—*Wycliffe*

"If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than the priests do."—*Tyndale*

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NEW AND REVISED EDITION

NEW YORK: HUNT & EATON  
CINCINNATI: CRANSTON & CURTS

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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**T**HE various efforts made to give to the English people the word of God in their own language make a story of romantic and tragic interest. The narrative is one of toil, trial, persecution, and martyrdom, followed by glorious triumph. Such a narrative ought to be familiar to all who speak the English language.

The design of this work is to give, in condensed form, the prominent facts relating to this subject, seeking to point the way to more elaborate works rather than to supersede them. Those who wish to investigate the subject more thoroughly will find in the list of "Authorities" given on page 7 the names of a number of books of this description.

As a merely literary production, the English Bible is well worth the attention of the student; while as a faithful exponent of the word of God, which has come down to us from prophets and apostles in other tongues than ours, it has a special interest for all believers in divine revelation.

The increasing attention given of late years to the study of the Bible and of collateral subjects is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. Our Sunday-school teachers and advanced scholars, as well as many not engaged in Sunday-school work, are seeking for helps

of all kinds to an intelligent and systematic study of the Scriptures. To aid them somewhat in this laudable effort this book has been written. It is arranged to meet the wants of the student, as well as of the general reader, and therefore takes its place in the "NORMAL OUTLINE SERIES." A careful study of the contemporaneous history, to which brief reference is given in various chapters, will help very much to a comprehensive understanding of the subject, revealing hidden influences and agencies which do not appear on a superficial reading. The **SYNOPTICAL STATEMENT** at the close of the book may be found helpful to those who wish to fix in mind the principal features of the history.

It is hoped that a study of the subject may result in a higher appreciation of our noble English Bible, and in an increased thankfulness to God for the labors of the honored men through whose efforts and sacrifices its possession has been made possible.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., *June 10, 1879.*

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Another edition of this little book being called for, the author has re-written Chapter XV, changing the title from "The Proposed Revision" to "The Anglo-American Revision," and adapting it to the historic facts which the change indicates. He has also made numerous corrections in other parts of the work.

It is gratifying to notice the continued increase of interest in our English Bible. In a number of the literary institutions of this country it has been introduced as a text-book in the course of study. It is to be hoped that while its literary excellences attract the mind its spiritual teachings will benefit the heart.

J. M. F.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., *November 1, 1891.*

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