THE STANDARD SERIES.

THE POPULAR HISTORY OF THE TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES INTO THE ENGLISH TONGUE.

WITH SPECIMENS OF THE OLD ENGLISH VERSIONS.

BY

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REVISED EDITION;
CONTINUING THE HISTORY TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

The following history of the English Bible was first published in the year 1836. It was received with general favor, and was republished without change in 1850. It was popular in its spirit and form; and for the first time it brought before the reader, in moderate compass, the whole subject of English Bible translation. Its materials were drawn from all that had been written directly on the subject, and from every other source from which light could be obtained. A list of the authorities consulted, in the preparation of the work, is added at the end of the author's preface.

In preparing this revised edition, the history has been compared throughout with works bearing on the subject that have appeared since its first publication; and such changes have been made as were found necessary to conform it to the present state of knowledge. The editor is specially indebted to the new and accurate researches of Mr. Westcott, in his History of the English Bible, and to Dr. Philip Schaff's Introduction to the American reprint of the Treasures of Trench, Lightfoot, and Ellicott, and to the Revision of the English version of the New Testament.

A closing chapter is added by the editor, bringing the history down to the present time; showing the steps by which the way has been gradually prepared for renewing the work of revision, under circumstances more favorable, and with materials far more ample, than at any former period in English history.

While these lines are going to the press, the Anglo-American revision of the English New Testament is made public, and received here with general interest, and with a sale of the book unprecedented in the publication of any other work, so far as is known to the writer. That such is the case augurs well for the interest felt in the Divine Word, and in all that may contribute to the purity of its text, and reader its teachings more clear and intelligible.

T. J. C.
AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

This volume was undertaken from the wish to meet a widely extended and increasing desire for information, in a popular form and within moderate limits, respecting the history of our English Bible. How came we by this Bible? What were its antecedents? In what religious, social, political condition of England had it its birth? What influences determined its primitive character and form? To what modifying agencies has it been subjected in the progress of its history? These and similar questions are now, in the present awakened state of public interest on the subject of Bible translation, asked by multitudes of intelligent and thoughtful persons, who have neither the time nor the means for searching out the answers for themselves. The valuable works on the subject, already before the public, are not adapted to the wants of general readers, being chiefly useful as works of reference for bibliographical students. That of Anderson (Annals of the English Bible), though rich in valuable and interesting information for certain portions of the history, is deficient in others; and it is, moreover, too voluminous, as well as too inmethodical, to attract such as do not enjoy a superfluity of leisure and of patience. It has been my object in this volume simply to furnish such an account of the early English versions and revisions as may give a clear idea of their origin and leading characteristics, and of the general influence of each in moulding the religious history of the English race. This design admitted of greater conciseness, without abridging those historical and personal details which best exhibit the subject in its connection with actual human life.*

Brief as the work is, however, the labor bestowed on its preparation has not been trifling. Indeed its very brevity is the result of no little labor. The length of time embraced in the history, and the variety of subjects and of characters necessarily introduced for its illustration, required not only much diligent investigation for the collection of materials, but much labor in sifting them, in order to keep the work within limits suited to common readers. But the task, though

* From these remarks it will be seen that a critical description of editions and copies does not come within the design of this volume.
toilsome, has been full of pleasantness; and I shall count myself happy if it shall become the means of communicating to other minds a more lively and more intelligent interest in the subject of which it treats. No other Christian people can show a vernacular Bible with such a history as ours; so consecrated by high purpose and noble sacrifices, so baptized in the tears and blood of faithful souls, so linked with the most life and history of the people. At what cost the Divine Word has been placed in the possession of the English race, and what it has done for that race, are matters which every Christian and every lover of his country has an interest in knowing. Without such knowledge, we can neither rightly estimate its value nor later intelligently for the perpetuation of its influence.

The principal works contained in the preparation of this volume are:


John de Wycliffe, a Monograph; by Robert Vaughan, D.D. 1859.

The first of these works is not superceded by the second, which admits many interesting details of the earlier memoir. To the new I am gladly indebted for the facts of Wycliffe’s history, and for the extracts from his writings.


Preface to Wycliffe’s Bible; edited by Forshall & Madden, Oxford, 1850.


Of the author the Noble Horne (Spence & Graham) says: “The style at the church, the state history of the people, government, manners, commerce, the arts and sciences, engaged his attention to a greater degree than they did that of Homer; and all these he treated in a series of graceful and instructive delineations, the result of his own careful and impartial researches.” For the character of the Roman priesthood, and the condition of England under their sway, this author has been chiefly relied on in the present work.


Hallam’s Middle Ages.


The materials for the personal history of Tyndale have been chiefly furnished by this work.


Rudbeck’s Thomas Morus, dieu des Quellen bearbeitet; die Aug., Augsburg, 1853.

Four’s Acts and Monuments; folio, London, 1641.


The only edition of his English writings. It was published by Reynolds in the last year of Queen Mary's reign; and was dedicated to her majesty, as an important aid to her efforts for the establish-

MENT OF ROMANISM.

ARCHBISHOP PARKER, DE ANTIQUIT. BET. ECCLES. LONDON, 1559.

MEMORIALS OF MILES COVERDALE; LONDON, SAMUEL EYRE, 1559.

MEMORIALS OF MILES COVERDALE; prefaced to Egesick's reprint of Coverdale's translation of the Bible.


PREFACE TO THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, 1557; Egesick's facsimile re-

print, London.

PREFACE TO THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT AND DEDICATION TO QUEEN ELIZABETH, 1560 (from the Edition of 1563).


These Memoirs of the English Primates in the sixteenth century were written by their own order of affairs, and alludes, without a serious Churchman. From his representations of the growth of Puritanism in the Church, and the means used for its suppression, and both draw the greater part of them in this volume.

FULLER'S CHURCH HISTORY; 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1842.


ARCHBISHOP PARKER'S PREFACE TO THE BISHOP'S BIBLE.

HEPHER, DES CARDINAL LIMBERG; Tobiad, 1511.

BISHOP BALLOW'S ACCOUNT OF THE HAMPTON COURT CONFERENCE; London, 1602.

WILKIN, CONCILIA MAGNAE BATT. ET HIS. London, 1733.


FULLER'S DEFENCE OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE (ed. for the Parker Society, Cam-
bridge, 1845).

WITTELOPPE'S MEMOIRS OF THE ENGLISH AFFAIRS; London, 1732.

JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. Published by order of the House.

TICCKENHORST'S RISE IN THE ORIENT; Leipzig, 1844.

TRAVELER'S PREFACE TO KING JAMES' REVISION (Field's Edition, 4 vol. fol. London, 1659); and DEDICATION TO THE KING.
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