

P R E F A C E .

In a brief letter on our Authorized Translation of the Bible, lately addressed to his Parishioners by an exemplary and learned Incumbent in the district to which I belong, it is stated, that in his parish (as in other places) tracts have been circulated, “^a one of the objects of which is to persuade the reader that our English Bible is very corrupt, and has been even wilfully corrupted by the persons who translated it from the original tongues.” In the letter the writer therefore justly observes, that it is the duty of our Clergy to come forward, and contradict this as well as other un-

^a A Letter from a Minister to his Parishioners, to caution them from the attempts now made to turn them from the true Protestant faith. Dat. Coxwold, 19. Sep. 1832, eight pages 12mo. p. 3.

founded assertions in regard to the *Religion of Protestants*. So to his observation I respectfully attend with my humble offering in the following pages ; which, with many more, were from writers of acknowledged authority, and from other valuable sources of information not so generally known, by me carefully compiled nearly fifteen years since in vindication not only of the AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION, but also of preceding English versions of the Bible ; and by the public were favourably received. I have now also made some additions to that account of the present translation.

To persons who may have been tempted, as in the district I have named or in other places, to give heed unto delusion; to the general reader indeed; the present selection is accordingly addressed; which gives a distinct account, how the translators were fully prepared, and in no respect deficient, to the good work they undertook ; and how the translation was completed in conformity to the minute directions that it might be accurate.

So beautifully, as well as faithfully, is this translation made, that the original from which it is taken, it has been justly ^b observed, is, alone, superior to it. Certainly, from its first appearance to the present time, it has been the admiration of all the truly learned and impartial in every country to which it has found its way, as well as of all such persons in our own. The excellent translators indeed said, that if they should “^c be traduced
 “ by popish persons at home and abroad, who
 “ would therefore malign them, because they were
 “ poor instruments to make God’s holy truth to be
 “ yet more and more known unto the people whom
 “ they desire still to keep in darkness and igno-
 “ rance ; or if, on the other side, they should be
 “ maligned by self-conceited bretheren who run
 “ their own ways, and give liking unto nothing

^b Pref. to Dr. A. Clarke’s Edit. of the Holy Bible, 1825, p. xxi.

^c Dedication of the translators to King James I. prefixed to many Editions of our Bibles.

“ but what is framed by themselves and hammered
“ on their own anvil ;”—they “ rested secure”
on the truth, the simplicity, the integrity, which
had guided their proceedings. They have since
rested thus secure ; and on their learning, their
fidelity, our countrymen, regardless of pretences
that a new translation is required, may also *se-
curely rest*.

H J. TODD.

March 6, 1834.