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Thomas, Isaiah, 1749-1831.

To Christians of every Denomination.

[ Worcester, 1791. ] [ 4 ] pp.

NYHS copy.

# To CHRISTIANS of every Denomination.



THE general state of our Country must afford satisfaction to every benevolent mind.—Evidences of its increasing prosperity present themselves on every side to our view.—Abroad, our national character is rising to dignity and eminence—at home, confidence is established in our Government, the spirit of patriotism appears to be the actuating principle with the distinguished characters of our age, and the greatest exertions are making for the Publick Good.

The civil and religious Rights of Men are generally understood, and are by all enjoyed. The Sciences, which open to the minds of men a view of the works and ways of God—and the Arts, which tend to the support, the convenience, and the ornament of Society, begin to receive proper encouragement from the administration of the General and State Governments; and, by the application and enterprise of Individuals, are approaching to excellence and perfection.

The means of a good education are daily becoming more general, and the present spirit of industry and economy, which pervades all classes of men, furnishes the brightest prospects of future prosperity and welfare.

While a general solicitude prevails to encourage the Arts, and to promote national honour, dignity and happiness, Can any be indifferent to those improvements which are necessary to secure to all the free and independent exercise of the Rights of Conscience?—The civil authority hath set an example of moderation and candor to all Christians, by securing equal privileges to all; and it must be their ardent and united wish, independently of foreign aid, to be supplied with copies of the sacred Scriptures, the foundation of their Religion—a religion which furnishes motives to the faithful performance of every patriotick, civil and social duty, superior to the temptations of ambition, avarice and selfishness;—which opens prospects to the human mind that will be realized when the relation to civil government shall be dissolved, and which will raise its real disciples to their highest glory and happiness when the monuments of human genius, art and enterprise, shall be lost in the general dissolution of nature.

The Editor, desirous to assist in the improvement of the most useful of all Arts, has carried through his Press two Editions of the Holy Bible—(this Royal Quarto, and one in Folio, illustrated with fifty Copperplate Engravings of Scripture History).—No cost, care or labour hath he spared to render these Editions correct, neat and elegant. He thinks he may venture to assure you that, in respect to Correctness, no copies of the Bible, now extant, have had more attention paid to them. The Editor furnished himself with nearly thirty copies, printed at different times and places—from these he selected the most correct, by which to revise the whole of this work.—The Marginal Notes and References

to the Quarto Edition, were all previously examined and compared with the Text by the Minister of Holden.—Every sheet of the Text, before its commitment to the Press, was carefully examined by the Clergymen of Worcester, and by other capable persons—and compared by not less than eight different Copies—six of them the most correct British Modern Editions from the Presses of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge—and two of them Ancient British Copies of the present translation—one printed in London, 1626, by Benham Norton and John Bill, only sixteen years after the first publication of this translation—the other at the University Press at Cambridge in 1637.—The Editor had also among his collection of Bibles, the celebrated Bishop Cranmer's, by supposition the first complete translation of the Bible into English, printed at London in the Reign of Henry VIII, 1540—a British translation supposed to have been made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and at a subsequent period revised by the most learned of the Bishops—and also the one in general use immediately preceding the translation of King James.—In instances in which the copies of the translation now in use differed, these most ancient English Editions helped to determine which was the most correct; and no other use was made of them.—All the above mentioned copies have occasionally been referred to—and in case of difference, the preference has been given to the most ancient British copies of the present translation, when there was good evidence that these were correct.

Though many difficulties impeded this work in the press, yet both Editions were executed in a little more than twelve months, solely at the expense of the Editor.—How far he has succeeded in his endeavour, you will judge by a comparison of his copies with those printed in Europe of the quality which his are done to imitate.—If, on inspection, the execution of the work should be satisfactory, he flatters himself that he may rely on all the Friends of Revelation, and on all the Patrons of the Arts, to succeed his endeavours, and reward his exertions, by giving his Editions a preference to those imported from abroad.

With esteem and respect,

your obedient, and very humble Servant,

ISAIAH THOMAS.

WORCESTER, *Massachusetts*, December, 1791.

[VARIOUS English Translations of the Bible were extant at the close of the sixteenth century : In some of them the Old Testament was made from the Septuagint, (that is, from a Greek translation of the Hebrew executed by order of Ptolemy Philadelphus, 284 years before the Christian Æra) in others, immediately from the Hebrew Text, except a few passages which were rendered from the Septuagint—and in others, both the Old and New Testament were made from the Latin of the Vulgate. These translations in several instances differed from each other, which induced King James I, to select fifty four men, eminent for their piety and learning, and particularly skilled in the original languages of the Scriptures, to make an entire new translation of the Bible—the Old Testament from the original Hebrew Text, and the New from the original Greek. Forty seven of these eminent men commenced the important business in the beginning of the year 1607.—They arranged themselves into separate classes, and to expedite the work, each class took a separate portion of the Bible. After three Years close application, the several classes had completed the parts assigned them.—The whole number then assembled in a body, and critically compared the copies of each class with the original, and with other translations—and no sentence was finally accepted till, in the general opinion, it expressed the sense of the inspired original : Nearly another year, it is said, was spent in this business : And in the Year 1611, this translation was by Authority first published. As it was executed by the order, and at the expence of the Crown, the Copyright became the property of the King, whose it has ever since continued.

This is universally acknowledged to be the most correct English translation of the Bible that has yet been published to the World—and it is generally used in Churches and private Families throughout Great Britain and America.

With their copy the Translators presented to King James the following ADDRESS, which has ever since been prefixed to all British Editions of the Holy Scriptures, viz.]

*To the Most High and Mighty Prince JAMES, by the Grace of God, King of GREAT-BRITAIN, FRANCE, and IRELAND, Defender of the Faith, &c.*

**The TRANSLATORS of the BIBLE with Grace, Mercy, and Peace, through  
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.**

**G**REAT and manifold were the blessings, most dread Sovereign, which Almighty God, the Father of all mercies, bestowed upon us the people of England, when first he sent your Majesty's Royal Person to rule and reign over us. For whereas it was the expectation of many, who wished not well unto our Sion, that upon the setting of that bright Occidental Star, Queen Elizabeth, of most happy memory, some thick and palpable clouds of darkness would so have overshadowed this Land, that men should have been in doubt which way they were to walk ; and that it should hardly be known who was to direct the unsettled State : the appearance of your Majesty, as of the Sun in his strength, instantly dispelled those supposed and surmised mists, and gave unto all that were well affected, exceeding cause of comfort ; especially when we beheld the Government established in your Highness, and your hopeful Seed, by an undoubted title, and this also accompanied with peace and tranquillity at home and abroad.

But amongst all our joys, there was no one that more filled our hearts, than the blessed continuance of the Preaching of God's sacred Word among us ; which is that inestimable Treasure, which excelleth all the riches of the earth ; because the fruit thereof extendeth itself, not only to the time spent in this transitory world, but directeth and disposeth men unto that eternal happiness which is above in heaven.

Then not to suffer this to fall to the ground, but rather to take it up, and to continue it in that state, wherein the famous predecessor of your Highness did leave it : nay, to go forward with the confidence and resolution of a man in maintaining the Truth of Christ, and propagating it far and near, is that which hath so bound and firmly knit the hearts of all your Majesty's loyal and religious people unto you, that your very name is precious among them ; their eye doth behold you with comfort, and they bless you in their hearts, as that sanctified person, who, under God, is the immediate author of their true happiness. And this their contentment doth not diminish or decay, but every day increaseth and taketh strength when they observe that the zeal of your Majesty toward the house of God doth not slack or go backward, but is more and more kindled, manifesting itself abroad in the farthest parts of Christendom, by writing in defence of the Truth, which hath given such a blow unto that man of sin, as will not be healed, and every day at home, by religious and learned discourse, by frequenting the House of God, by hearing the Word preached, by cherishing the teachers thereof, by caring for the Church, as a most tender and loving nursing father.

There are infinite arguments of this right christian and religious affection in your Majesty ; but none is more forcible to declare it to others, than the vehement and perpetuated desire of accomplishing and publishing of this Work, which now with all humility we present unto your Majesty. For when your Highness had once, out of deep judgment, apprehended how convenient it was, that out of the original Sacred Tongues, together with comparing of the labours, both in our own and other foreign languages, of many worthy men who went before us, there should be one more exact Translation of the Holy Scriptures into the English Tongue ; your Majesty did never desist to urge and to excite those to whom it was commended, that the work might be hastened, and that the business might be expedited in so decent a manner, as a matter of such importance might justly require.

And

*And now, at last, by the mercy of God, and the continuance of our labours, it being brought unto such a conclusion, as that we have great hopes that the Church of England shall reap good fruit thereby; we hold it our duty to offer it to your Majesty, not only as to our King and Sovereign, but as to the principal mover and author of the work: humbly craving of your most sacred Majesty, that since things of this quality have ever been subject to the censures of ill meaning and discontented persons, it may receive approbation and patronage from so learned and judicious a Prince as your Highness is, whose allowance and acceptance of our labours shall more honour and encourage us, than all the calumniations and hard interpretations of other men shall dismay us. So that if, on the one side, we shall be traduced by popish persons at home or abroad, who therefore will malign us, because we are 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 ignorance and darkness: or if, on the other side, we shall be maligned by self conceited brethren, who run their own ways, and give liking unto nothing, but what is framed by themselves, and hammered on their anvil; we may rest secure, supported within by the truth and innocency of a good conscience, having walked the ways of simplicity and integrity, as before the Lord; and sustained without, by the powerful protection of your Majesty's grace and favour, which will ever give countenance to honest and christian endeavours against bitter censures, and uncharitable imputations.*

*The Lord of heaven and earth bless your Majesty with many and happy days, that as his heavenly hand hath enriched your Highness with many singular and extraordinary graces; so you may be the wonder of the world in this latter age, for happiness and true felicity, to the honour of that Great GOD, and the good of his Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour.*

The NAMES and ORDER of all the BOOKS of the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT, and APOCRYPHA, with the Numbers of their Chapters, and Pages where they may be found.

### The BOOKS of the OLD TESTAMENT.

	No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.
<b>G</b> ENESIS	50	9	II. Chronicles	36	417	Daniel	12	767
Exodus	40	59	Ezra	10	452	Hosea	14	783
Leviticus	27	102	Nehemiah	13	462	Joel	3	790
Numbers	36	133	Esther	10	477	Amos	9	793
Deuteronomy	34	176	Job	42	484	Obadiah	1	798
Joshua	24	212	Psalms	150	510	Jonah	4	799
Judges	21	237	Proverbs	31	576	Micah	7	801
Ruth	4	262	Ecclesiastes	12	598	Nahum	3	806
I. Samuel	31	265	Song of Solomon	8	605	Habakkuk	3	808
II. Samuel	24	298	Isaiah	66	609	Zephaniah	3	810
I. Kings	22	326	Jeremiah	52	658	Haggai	2	812
II. Kings	25	358	Lamentations	5	713	Zechariah	14	813
I. Chronicles	29	389	Ezekiel	48	717	Malachi	4	822

### The BOOKS called APOCRYPHA.

	No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.
I. <b>E</b> SDRAS	9	825	Ecclesiasticus	51	909	Story of Susanna		957
II. <b>E</b> SDRAS	16	840	Baruch, with	6	949	Bel, and the		
Tobit	14	867	the Epistle of			Dragon		959
Judith	16	876	Jeremiah			Prayer of Manasses		961
Rest of Esther	6	890	The Song of the			I. Maccabees	16	ibid
Wisdom	19	894	Three Children		955	II. Maccabees	15	993

### The BOOKS of the NEW TESTAMENT.

	No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.		No. of Chapters.	Page.
<b>M</b> ATTHEW	28	1019	Ephesians	6	1209	To the Hebrews	13	1235
Mark	16	1051	Philippians	4	1214	Epistle of James	5	1245
Luke	24	1072	Colossians	4	1218	I. Peter	5	1248
John	21	1107	I. Thessalonians	5	1221	II. Peter	3	1252
The Acts	28	1133	II. Thessalonians	3	1224	I. John	5	1255
Epistle to Roman.	16	1167	I. Timothy	6	1226	II. John	1	1258
I. Corinthians	16	1181	II. Timothy	4	1230	III. John	1	1259
II. Corinthians	13	1195	Titus	3	1232	Jude	1	ibid.
Galatians	6	1201	Philemon	1	1234	Revelations	22	1260