TO THE RIGHT VVELBELOVED ENGLISH READER GRACE AND GLORIE IN IESVS CHRIST EVER-LASTING

At laft through Gods goodnes (most dearly beloued) we fend you here the greater part of the Old Testament: as long fince you received the New; faithfully translated into English. The refidue is in had to be finished: and your defire therof fhal not now (God prospering our in-As for the impediments, tention) be long frustrate. which hitherto have hindered this vvorke, they al proceded (as manie do know) of one general caufe, our poore eftate in banishment. VVherin expecting better meanes, greatter difficulties rather enfued. Neuertheles you wil hereby the more perceive our feruent good wil, ever to ferue you, in that we have brought forth this Tome, in these hardest times, of aboue fourtie yeares, a)fince this College was most happely begune. VVherfore we nothing doubt, but you our dearest, for whom we have dedicated our liues, wil both pardon the long delay, which we could not wel preuent, and accept now this fruict of our laboures, with like good affection, as we acknowlege them due, and offer the fame vnto you.

If anie demand, why it is now allowed to have the holie Scriptures in vulgar tongues, which generally is not permitted, but in the three facred only: for further declaration of this, & other like pointes we remite you to the Preface, before the New Testament. Only here, as by an Epitome, we shall repete the summe of al, that is there more largely discussed. To this first question therfore we answer, that both iust reason, & highest authoritie of the Church, iudge it not absolutly necessarie, nor always convenient, that holie Scriptures should be

The cause of delay in setting forth this English Bible.

VVhy & how it is allowed to haue holie Scriptures in vulgar tongues.

^a 1568

For being as they are, hard to

be vnderftood, euen by the lerned, reason doth dictate

to reafonable men, that they were not written, nor ordayned to be read indifferently of al men. Experiece also teacheth, that through ignorance, iovned often with pride and prefumption, manie reading Scriptures haue

erred grofly, by mifunderstanding Gods word. VVhich

though it be most pure in it felf. vet the fense be-

ing adulterated is as perilous (faith Tertullian) as the

the text is true, the Arrians interpretation hath errors. S. Augustin also teacheth, that herefies and peruerse

doctrines entangling foules, and throwing them dovvne headlong into the depth, do not otherwise spring vp, but vvhen good (or true) Scriptures are not vvel (and truly) vnderstood, and vvhen that vvhich in them is not vvel vnderftood, is also rashly & boldly auouched.

For the fame caufe, S. Ierom vtterly difallowed, that

al fortes of men & wemen, old & yong, prefumed to read & talke of the Scriptures: wheras no articene, no

ftile corrupted. S. Ambrofe observeth: that

Scriptures being hard are not to be read of al.

Manie take harme by reading holie Scriptures.

lib. de Prescrip.

lib. 2. ad Gratian. c. 1.

> Tract. 18. in Ioan.

in vulgar tongues.

c. 6.

Epist. 103.

Bibl. Sanct. lib. 4.

Lib. 1. Hist. c. 47.

Linvvod lib. 1.

tradfman dare prefume to teach anie facultie, vyhich he hath not first lerned. Seing therfore that dangers, & hurtes happen in manie, the careful chief Paftores in Gods Church, have alwaies moderated the reading of holie Scriptures, according to perfons, times, and other circumftances; prohibiting fome, and permitting fome, to have and read them, in their mother tongue. S. Cryfoftom translated the Pfalmes & fome other partes of holie Scriptures for the Armenians, when he was there in banishment. The Slauonians and Gothes fav they have the Bible in their languages. It was translated into Italian by an Archbyshop of Genua. Into French in the time of king Charles the fift: efpecially because the waldenfian heretikes had corruptly translated it, to maintaine their errors. VVe had fome partes in Englifh tranflated by Venerable Bede: as Malmesburie witneffeth. And Thomas Arundel Archbishop of Canturburie in a Councel holden at Oxford, ftraictly ordayned, that no heretical translation fet forth by wicliffe, and his complices, nor anie other vulgar Edition fhould

Reading of Scriptures moderated.

Scriptures tranflated into diuers tongues.

be fuffered, til it were approued by the Ordinarie of the Diocefe: alleaging S. Ieroms iudgement of the difficultie & danger in translating holie Scriptures out of one tongue into an other. And therfore it must nedes be much more dangerous, when ignorant people read also corrupted translations. Now fince Luther, and his followers have pretended, that the Catholique Romane faith and doctrine, fhould be contrarie to Gods written word. & that the Scriptures were not fuffered in vulgar languages, left the people flould fee the truth, & vvithal thefe new maifters corruptly turning the Scriptures into divers tongues, as might beft ferue their owne opinions: against this false suggestion, and practife, Catholique Pastores haue, for one especial remedie, set forth true and fincere Translations in most languages of the Latin Church. But fo, that people must read them with licence of their fpiritual fuperior, as in former times they were in like fort limited. Such also of the Laitie, yea & of the meaner lerned Clergie, as were permitted to read holie Scriptures, did not prefume to interprete hard places, nor high Mysteries, much leffe to dispute and contend, but leaving the discussion thereof to the more lerned, fearched rather, and noted the godlie and imitable examples of good life, and fo lerned more humilitie, obedience, hatred of finne, feare of God, zele of Religion, and other vertues. And thus holie Scriptures may be rightly vfed in anie tongue, to teach, to argue, to correct, to inftruct in iuftice, that the man of God may be perfect, and (as S. Paul addeth) inftructed to euerie good vvorke, when men laboure rather to be doers of Gods wil & vvord, then readers or hearers only,

A calumnious fuggestion of Lutheranes.

VVhat part of Scriptures be most convenient for vulgar readers.

2. Tim. 3.

Iac. 1.

deceiving themselves.

But here an other question may be proposed: VVhy we translate the Latin text, rather then the Hebrew, or Greke, which Protestantes preferre, as the sountaine tongues, wherin holie Scriptures were first written? To this we answer, that if in dede those first pure Editions were now extant, or if such as be extant, were more pure then the Latin, we would also preferre such sountaines before the rivers, in whatsoever they should

VVhy we tranflate the old Latin text.

More pure then the Hebrew or Greke now extant. Tertulliã li. 5.
cont. Marcion
S. Ambrose
li. 3. de Spirit.
San. c. 11.
S. Ierom. li. 1.
con. Iouiniã.

in 49. Ifaia.

li. 20. c. 24. mora. Epift. dedicat. ad Leander. li. 2. Doct. Chrift. c. 14. lib. 6. Etym. c. 5. & li. 1. de Diuin offic. c. 12.

Prefat. in Iofue.

thers, & Doctors of the Church, do much complaine, and teftifie to vs. that both the Hebrew and Greke Editions are fouly corrupted by Iewes, and Heretikes, fince the Latin was truly translated out of them, whiles they were more pure. And that the fame Latin hath bene farre better conferued from corruptions. So that the old Vulgate Latin Edition hath bene preferred, and vied for most authentical aboue a thousand and three hundered yeares. For by this verie terme S. Ierom calleth that Version the vulgate or common, which he conferred with the Hebrew of the old Testament, and with the Greke of the New; which he also purged from faultes committed by writers, rather amending then translating it. Though in regard of this amending, S. Gregorie calleth it the nevv verfio of S. Ierom: who neuertheles in an other place calleth the felf fame, the old Latin Edition, judging it most worthy to be followed. S. Augustin calleth it the Italian. S. Ifidorus witneffeth that S. Ieroms version was received and approved by al Christian Churches. Sophronius alfo a most lerned man, feing S. Ieroms Edition fo much eftemed, not only of the Latines, but also of the Grecians, turned the Pfalter & Prophetes, out of the fame Latin into Greke. Of latter times what fhal we nede to recite other most lerned men? S. Bede S. Anfelme, S. Bernard, S. Thomas, S. Bonauenture, & the reft? VVho al vniformly allege this only text as authentical. In fo much that al other Latin Editions, which S. Ierom faith were in his time almost innumerable, are as it were fallen out of al Diuines handes, and growne out of credite and vfe. If moreouer we confider S. Ieroms lerning, pietie, diligence, and finceritie, together with the commodities he had of beft copies, in al languages then extant, and of other lerned men, with whom he conferred: and if we fo copare the fame with the best meanes that hath bene fince, furely no man of indifferent judgement, wil match anie other Edition with S. Ieroms: but eafely acknowlege with the whole Church Gods particular prouidece in this great Doctor, as wel

for expounding, as most especially for the true text and

be found to difagree. But the ancient best lerned Fa-

Received by al Churches.

Turned into Greke.

Al others growne out of vfe.

S. Ierom excelled al other Doctors in tranflating & expounding holie Scriptures.

Edition of Holie Scriptures. Neither do we flee vnto this old Latin text, for more aduantage. For befides that it is free from partialitie, as being most ancient of al Latin copies, and long before the particular Controuersies of these dayes beganne; the Hebrew also & the Greke when they are truly translated, yea and Erasmus his Latin, in fundrie places, proue more plainly the Catholique Romaine doctrine, then this which we relie vpon. So that Beza & his followers take also exception against the

His Edition free from partialitie.

luc. 22. v. 20.
Prefat. Noui.
Teftam.
Anno. 1556.
Luc. 1. v. 1.

Beza & his followers take allo exception against the Greke, when Catholiques allege it against them. Yea the same Beza preferreth the old Latin Version before all others, & freely testisieth, that the old Interpreter translated religiously. VVhat then do our countriemen, that results this Latin, but deprive themselves of the best, and yet all this while, have set forth none, that is allowed by all Protestantes, for good or sufficient.

Preferred before al other Editions by Beza.

None yet in England allowed for fufficient.

Preface before the nevv Teftam.

How wel this is donne the lerned may judge, when by mature conference, they fhal have made trial therof. And if anie thing be miftaken, we wil (as ftil we promife) gladly correct it. Those that traflated it about thirtie veares fince, were wel knowen to the world, to have bene excellent in the tongues, fincere men, and great Diuines. Only one thing we have donne touching the text, wherof we are especially to geue notice. That whereas heretofore in the best Latin Editions, there remained manie places differing in wordes, fome also in fense, as in long proceffe of time, the writers erred in their copies; now lately by the care & diligence of the Church, those diuers readings were maturely, and juditiously examined, and conferred with fundrie the best written and printed bookes, & fo refolued vpon, that al which before were leift in the margent, are either reftored into the text, or els omitted; fo that now none fuch remaine in the margent. For which caufe, we have againe conferred this English translation, and conformed it to the most perfect Latin Edition. VVhere yet by the way we must geue the vulgar reader to vnderstand, that very few or none of the former varieties, touched Controuerfies of this time. So that this Recognition is no way fufpicious of partialtie, but is merely donne for the more fecure

VVhat is done in this Edition

Diuers readinges refolued vpon, & none leift in the margent.

They touched not prefent controuerfies.

Preface

conferuation of the true text; and more eafe, and fatisfaction of fuch, as otherwife flould haue remained more doubtful.

Now for the ftrictnes observed in translating some wordes, or rather the not translating of some, which is in more danger to be disliked, we doubt not but the discrete lerned reader, deeply weighing and considering the importance of sacred wordes, and how easely the translatour may misse the sense of the Holie Ghost, will hold that which is here donne for reasonable and necessarie.

VVe haue also the example of the Latin, and Greke,

VVhy fome vvordes are not tranflated into vulgar English.

Some Hebrew wordes not translated into Latin, nor Greke.

li. 2. Doct. Chrift. cap. 11.

More authoritie in facred tongues.

Some vvordes can not be turned into English.

Protestantes leaue some vvordes vntranslated.

where fome wordes are not translated, but left in Hebrew, as they were first spoken & written; which seeing they could not, or were not convenient to be translated into Latin or Greke, how much leffe could they, or was it reason to turne them into English? S. Augustin also veldeth a reason, exemplifying in the wordes Amen and Alleluia, for the more facred authoritie therof which doubtles is the caufe why fome names of folemne Feaftes. Sacrifices, & other holie thinges are referred in facred tongues, Hebrew, Greke, or Latin. Against for necessitie, English not having a name, or fufficient terme, we either kepe the word, as we find it, or only turne it to our English termination, because it would otherwise require manie wordes in English, to fignisse one word of an other tongue. In which cases, we commonly put the explication in the margent. Briefly our Apologie is eafie against English Protestantes; because they also referue fome wordes in the original tongues, not translated into English: as Sabath, Ephod, Pentecost, Profelyte, and fome others. The fenfe wherof is in dede as foone lerned, as if they were turned fo nere as is possible into English. And why then may we not fay Prepuce, Phase or Pasch, Azimes, Breades of Proposition, Holocaust, and the like? rather then as Protestantes translate them: Foreskinne, Paffouer, The feaft of fivete breades, Shevy breades, Burnt offerings: &c. By which terms, whether they be truly translated into English or no, we wil passe ouer. Sure it is an English man is still to seke, what they meane,

as if they remained in Hebrew, or Greke. It more importeth, that nothing be wittingly and falfly translated, for aduantage of doctrine in matter of faith. VVherein as we dare boldly auouch the finceritie of this Tranflation, and that nothing is here either vntruly, or obfcurely donne of purpose, in fauour of Catholique Romane Religion: fo we can not but complaine, and chalenge English Protestantes, for corrupting the text, cotrarie to the Hebrew, & Greke, which they professe to translate, for the more flow, and mainteening of their peculiar opinions against Catholiques. As is proud in the Discouerie of manifold corruptios. For example we shall put the reader in memorie of one or two. Gen. 4. v. 7. whereas (God fpeaking to Cain) the Hebrew wordes in Grammatical conftruction may be translated either thus: Vnto thee also perteyneth the lust thereof, & thou shalt have dominion ouer IT: or thus; Also vnto thee HIS defire fhal be fubiect, & thou fhalt rule ouer HIM: though the coherece of the text requireth the former, & in the Bibles printed 1552. and. 1577. Protestantes did so translate it: yet in the yeare 1579. and 1603. they translate it the other way, rather faying, was fubiect to Cain, and that Cain by Gods ordinance, had dominion ouer his brother Abel, then that concupifcence or luft of finne is fubiect to mans wil, or that man hath powre of free wil, to refift (by Gods grace) tentation of finne. But as we heare in a new Edition (which we have not yet fene) they traffate it almost as in the first. In like forte Gen. 14. v. 18. The Hebrew particle VAV, which S. Ierom, and al Antiquitie translated Enim (For) Protestants wil by no meanes admitte it, because (besides other argumentes) we proue therby Melchifedechs Sacrifice. And yet themselues translate the fame, as S. Ierom doth, Gen. 20. v. 3. faving: For fhe is a mans vvife. &c. Againe Gen. 31. v. 19. the Englifh Bibles. 1552. and 1577. translate Theraphim, IM-AGES. VVhich the Edition of 1603. correcting, translateth IDOLES. And the marginal Annotation well proueth, that it ought to be fo translated.

Corruptions in Protestantes Translations of holie Scriptures.

Of purpose against Catholique doctrine

Against free wil.

Againft Melchifedechs facrifice.

And againft holie Images.

fpeake to you al, that vnderstand our tongue, whether you be of contrarie opinions in faith, or of mundane feare participate with an other Congregation; or professe with vs the fame Catholique Religion) to you all we prefent this worke: dayly befeching God Almightie, the Diuine VVifedom, Eternal Goodnes, to create, illuminate, and replenish your spirites, with his Grace, that you may attaine eternal Glorie. Euerie one in his meafure, in those manie Mansions, prepared and promised by our Saujour in his Fathers house. Not only to those which first received, & followed his Divine doctrine, but to al that fhould afterwardes believe in him, & kepe the fame preceptes. For there is one God, one also Mediatour of God and men: Man Chrift Iefus. VVho gaue himfelf a Redemption for al. VVherby appeareth his wil, that al fhould be faued. VVhy then are not al faued? The Apostle addeth: that they must first come to the knowlege of the truth. Because without faith it is impossible to pleafe God. This groundworke therfore of our creation in Chrift by true faith, S. Paul labored most feriously by word and writing, to establish in the hartes of al men. In this he confirmed the Romanes by his Epiftle, comending their faith, as already received, and renowmed in the whole world. He preached the fame faith to manie Nations. Amongst others to the lerned Athenians. VVhere it femed to fome, as abfurde, as ftrange; in fo much that they fcornfully called him a vvord-fovver, and Preacher of new gods. But S. Augustin alloweth the terme for good, which was reprochfully spoken of the And fo diffinguishing between Reapers, and Sovvers in Gods Church, he teacheth, that wheras the other Apostles reaped in the Iewes, that which their Patriarches and Prophetes had fowne: S. Paul fowed the feede of Christian Religion in the Gentiles. And

fo in respect of the Ifraelites, to whom they were first

fent, calleth the other Apostles Messors, Reapers, and

S. Paul, being fpecially fent to the Gentiles, Seminatorem a Sovver, or Seminarie Apoftle. VVhich two fortes

VVith this then we will conclude most deare (we

This Edition dedicated to al that vnderftand English.

Chrift redemed al, but al are not faued. True faith firft neceffarie.

Act. 17. v. 18. Ser. 42. de Sanct.

The twelue Apoftles were firft Reapers, before they were Sowers. S. Paul at firft a Sower, or Seminarie Apoftle

of Gods workmen are ftil in the Church, with diffinct offices of Paftoral cures, and Apostolical missions, the one for perpetual gouernment of Catholique countries: the other for conversion of fuch, as either have not received Chriftian Religion, or are relapfed. As at this time in

Paftoral cures and Apoftolical miffions.

S. Aug. de vtilis. cred. c. 1. Mat. 15.

Pfalm. 124.

our country, for the divers fortes of pretended religions, thefe divers fpiritual workes are necessary, to teach and feede al Britan people. Becaufe fome in error of opinions preach an other Gofpel, wheras in veritie there is no other Gofpel. They preach in dede new doctrines, which can not faue. Others follow them beleuing falfhood. But vyhen the blinde lead the blinde (not the one only, but) Others conforme themselues, both fal into the ditch. in external flow, fearing them that can punish, and kil the bodie. But our Lord vvil bring fuch as decline into (vniuft) obligations, vvith them that vvorke iniquitie. The Reliques and final flock of Catholiques in our country, haue great fadnes, and forow of hart; not fo much for our owne affliction, for that is comfortable, but for you our brethren, and kinfemen in flesh and bloud. VVifhing with our owne temporal damage whatfoeuer, your faluation. Now is the acceptable time, now are the dayes of faluation, the time of Grace by Chrift, whofe dayes manie Kinges & Prophetes defired to fee:

2. Cor. 6.

they faw them (in fpirite) and reioyced. But we are Luc. 10. made partakers of Chrift, and his Mysteries; fo that our felues neglect not his heauenly riches: if we receive & kepe the beginning of his fubftance, firme vnto the end; that is, the true Catholique faith; building theron good workes by his grace; without which we can not thinke a good thought, by which we can do al thinges necessarie

Tit. 1.

Mat. 25.

1. Cor. 13.

to faluation. But if we hold not faft this ground, al the building fayleth. Or if confessing to know God in wordes, we denie him in deedes, committing workes of darknes; or omitting workes of mercie, when we may doe them to our diftreffed neighbors; brifly if we have not charitie, the forme and perfection of al vertues, al is loft, and nothing worth. But if we builde vpon firme grounde, gold, filuer, and precious frones, fuch building fhal abide, and make our vocation fure by good workes as

New doctrine is falfly called the Gofpel.

The feduced, and externally conformable are punished with the authors of iniquitie.

Grace in the new Teftamet more abundant then in the old.

Both wicked workes, and omiffion of good workes are damnable. 1. Pet. 1. S. Peter fpeaketh. Thefe (faith S. Paul) are the heyres Apoc. 7. of God, coheyres of Chrift. Neither is the number of Chrifts bleffed children couted, as of the Iewes, an

Innumerable faued by Chrift.

hundred fourtie foure thousand, of euerie tribe of Israel twelue thousand signed; but a most great multitude of Catholique Christians, which no man can number, of al nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne of the lambe, clothed in white robes, and palmes (of triumph) in their handes: hauing ouercome tentations in the vertuous race of good life. Much more those which also indure perfecution

for the truthes fake, fhal receive most copious great re-

wardes in heauen. For albeit the paffions of this time

They are more happie that fuffer perfecution for the truth.

(in themfelues) are not a)condigne, to the glorie to come, that fhal be reueled in vs: yet our tribulation, which 2. Cor. 4. prefently is momentanie, and light, worketh (through grace) aboue measure excedingly an eternal weight of glorie. VVhat fhal we therfore meditate of the especial prerogative of English Catholiques at this time? For to you it is geuen for Christ, not only that you believe in him, but also that you suffer for him. A litle now, if you must be made pensive in divers tentations, that the

English Catholiques most happie in this age.

probation of your faith, much more precious then gold, 1. Pet. 1. which is proued by the fire, may be found vnto praife, and glorie, and honour, in the reuelation of Iefus Chrift. Manie of you have fufteyned the fpoile of your goodes with ioy, knowing that you have a better and a permanent fubstance. Others have benne deprived of your children, fathers, mothers, brothers, fifters, and nereft frendes, in readie refolution also, some with sentence of death, to lofe your owne liues. Others have had trial of reproches, mockeries, and ftripes. Others of bandes, prifons, and banishmentes. The innumerable renowmed late English Martyres, & Confessors, whose happie soules for confeffing true faith before men, are now most glorious in heauen, we paffe here with filence; because their due praife, requiring longer discourfe, yea rather Angels, then English tongues, farre furpasseth the reach of our

The due praife of Martyres, and other glorious Sainctes excedeth mortal tongues.

^a VVorthie, or comparable in dignitie.

conceiptes. And fo we leave it to your devout meditation. They now fecure for themselues, and folicitous for vs their dearest clients, inceffantly (we are wel affured) intercede before Chrifts Diuine Maieftie, for our happie confummation, with the conversion of our whole countrie. To you therfore (dearest frendes mortal) we direct this fpeach: admonifhing ourfelues & you, in the Apostles wordes, that for so much as we have not vet refifted tentations to (laft) bloud (and death itself) patience is ftil neceffarie for vs, that doing the wil of God. we may receive the promife. So we repine not in tribulation, but euer loue them that hate vs. pittying their cafe, and reiovcing in our owne. For neither can we fee during this life, how much good they do vs; nor know how manie of them fhal be (as we hartely defire they al may be) faued: our Lord and Sauiour hauing paide the fame price by his death, for them and for vs. Loue al therfore, pray for al. Do not lofe your confidence, which hath a great remuneration. For yet a litle, and a very litle while, he that is to come, wil come, and he wil not flacke. Now the iuft liueth by faith, beleeuing with hart to inftice, and confessing with mouth to faluation. But he that withdraweth himfelf fhal not please Christs soule. Attend to your faluation, dearest countriemen. You that are farre of, draw nere, put on

Patience neceffarie to the end of mans life.

Perfecution profitable.

Confession of faith before men necessarie to faluation.

From the English College in Doway, the Octaues of al Sainctes. 1609.

Chrift. And you that are within Chrifts fold, kepe your ftanding, perfeuere in him to the end. His grace dwel and remaine in you, that glorious crownes may be geuen

The God of patience and comfort geue you to be of one mind, one tovvards another in Iesus Chrift; that of one mind, with one mouth you may glorifie God.

Rom. 10.

Heb. 10.

you. Amen