

TO THE MOST
HIGH AND MIGHTIE
Prince , IAMES by the grace of God
King of Great Britaine , France and Ireland ,
Defend of the Faith , &c.
THE TRANSLATORS OF *THE BIBLE* ,
wish Grace , Mercie , and Peace , through IESVS
CHRIST *our* LORD.

Great and manifold were the blessings (most dread Soueraigne) which Almighty GOD , the Father of all Mercies , bestowed vpon vs the people of ENGLAND , when first he sent your Maiesties Royall person to rule and raigne ouer vs. For whereas it was the expectation of many , who wished not well vnto our SION , that vpon the setting of that bright *Occidentall Starre* QUEENE ELIZABETH of most happy memory , some thicke and palpable cloudes of darkeness would so haue ouershadowed this land , that men should haue bene in doubt which way they were to walke , and that it should hardly be knowen , who was to direct the vnsetled State : the appeareance of your MAIESTIE, as of the *Sunne* in his strength , instantly dispelled those supposed and furnished mists , and gaue vnto all that were well affected , exceeding cause of comfort ; especially when we beheld the gouernement established in your HIGHNESSE , and your hopefull Seed, by an vndoubted Title , and this also accompanied with Peace and tranquillitie, at home and abroad.

But amongst all of Ioyes , there was no one that more filled our hearts, then the blessed continuance of the Preaching of GODS sacred word amongst vs , which is that inestimable treasure, which excelleth all the riches of the earth , because the fruit thereof extendeth it selfe¹ , not onely to the time spent in this transitory world, but directeth and disposeth men vnto that Eternall happinesse which is aboue in Heauen.

Then , not to suffer this to fall to the ground , but rather to take it vp , and to continue it in that state, wherein the famous predeceffour of your HIGHNESSE did leaue it ; Nay , to goe forward with the confidence and resolution of a man in maintaining the trueth of CHRIST , and propagating it farre and neere , is that which hath so bound and firmly knit the hearts of all your MAIESTIES loyall and Religious people vnto you, that your very Name is precious among them , their eye doeth behold you with comfort , and they blesse you in their hearts , as that sanctified person , who vnder GOD , is the immediate authour of their true happinesse. And this their contentment doeth not diminish or decay, but euery day increaseth and taketh strength , when they obserue that the zeale of your Maiestie towards the house of GOD , doth not slacke or goe backward , but is more and more kindled , manifesting it selfe abroad in the furthest parts of *Christendome* , by writing in defence of the Trueth , (which hath giuen such a blow vnto that man of Sinne , as will not be healed) and euery day at home , by Religious and learned discourse , by frequenting the house of GOD , by hearing the word preached , by cherishing the teachers therof , by caring for the Church as a most tender and louing nourcing Father.

There are infinite arguments of this right Christian and Religious affection in your MAIESTIE : but none is more forcible to declare it to others , then the vehement and perpetuated desire of the accomplishing and publishing of this Worke , which now with all humilitie we present vnto your MAIESTIE. For when your Highnesse had once out of the deepe iudgment apprehended , how conuenient it was , That out of the Originall sacred tongues , together with comparing of the labours , both in our owne and other forreigne Languages , of many worth men who went before vs, there should be one more exact Translation of the holy Scriptures into the *English tongue* ; your MAIESTIE did neuer desist , to vrge and to excite those to whom it was commended , that the worke might be hastened , and that the businesse might be expedited in so decent a maner , as a matter of such importance might iustly require.

And now at last , by the Mercy of GOD , and the continuance of our Labours , it being brought vnto such a

¹ Embs Note : As in original text. Probably supposed to be "selfe".

conclusion , as that we haue great hope that the Church of *England* shall reape good fruit thereby ; we hold it our duety to offer it to your MAIESTIE , not onely as to our King and Soueraigne , but as to the principall moouer and Author of the Worke. Humbly crauing of your most Sacred Maieftie , that since things of this quality haue euer bene subiect to the censures of ill meaning and discontented persons , it may receiue approbation and Patronage from so learned and iudicious a Prince as your Highnesse is , whose allowance and acceptance of our Labours , shall more honour and incourage vs , then all the calumniations and hard interpretations of other men shall dismay vs. So that , if on the one side we shall be traduced by Popish persons at home or abroad , who therefore will maligne vs , because we are poore Instruments to make G O D S holy Trueth to be yet more and more knowen vnto the people , whom they desire still to keepe in ignorance and darknesse : or if on the other side , we shall be maligned by felse-conceited brethren , who runne their owne wayes , and giue liking vnto nothing but what is framed by themfelues, and hammered on their Anuile ; we may rest secure , supported within by the trueth and innocencie of a good conscience , hauing walked the wayes of simplicitie and integritie , as before the Lord ; And sustained without , by the powerfull Protection of your Maiefties grace and fauour , which will euer giue countenance to honest and Christian endeouours , against bitter censures , and vncharitable imputations.

The LORD of Heauen and earth bleffe your Maieftie with many and happy dayes , that as his Heauenly hand hath enriched your Highnesse with many singular , and extraordinary Graces ; so you may be the wonder of the world in this later age , for happinesse and true felicitie , to the honour of that Great G O D , and the good of his Church, through IESVS CHRIST our Lord and onely Sauour.

(..)

Embs Note : From the Original Text as seen in the PDF available at
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