

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

IN

## BRAID SCOTS.

RENDERED BY

WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

WITH A GLOSSARY OF SCOTTISH TERMS.

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### PREFACE.

Thar are mony folk, wha hae spoken English a' their grown-up days, wha like to gang back till the tongue o' their bairnhood, i' the mirk and shadows o' auld age. Thar are ithers wha seem to tak the Word till them better, whan it comes till them wi' a wee o' the Scottish berr. And thar are a hantle o' folk—and I meet them a'-gate—wha divna speak Scots theirsels, but are keen to hear it, and like to read it.

And thar is anither consideration—the Scots tongue is no gettin extendit, and some folk think it may be tint a'thegither 'or lang. And God's Word is for a' men; and ony lawfu' means ane can use to get folk to read it, and tak tent till't, is richt and proper. For a' thae reasons, and ithers I coud bring forrit, I hae putten the New Testament intil Braid Scots. Lat nae man think it is a vulgar tongue—a mere *gibberish* to be dune wi' as sune as ane is by the schule-time. It is an ancient and honorable tongue; wi' rutes deep i' the yirth; aulder than muckle o' the English. It cam doon till us throwe oor Gothic and Pictish forbears; it was heard on the battle-field wi' Bruce; it waifit the triumphant prayers and sangs o' the Martyrs intil Heeven; it dir'l't on the tongue o' John Knox, denouncin wrang; it sweeten't a' the heevenlie letters o' Samu'l Rutherford; and aneath the theek o' mony a muirland cottage it e'en noo carries thanks till Heeven, and brings the blessings doon!

And I haena putten pen till paper unbidden. A wheen screeds o' the Word dune intil Scots I had at times putten afore the public een; and folk wad write me, "Hae ye ony mair o't? Is the hail Testament in Scots to be gotten?" till I begude to think that aiblins Providence had gien me the Scots blude and the Scots tongue, wi' the American edication, for the vera reason that—haein baith lang'ages—I soud recommend the Word in Scots; and juist Scots eneuch no to be unfathomable to the ordinar English reader.

Whiles thar has been a chance o' makin the meanin plainer; whiles a Scots phrase o' unco' tenderness or wondrous pith coud come in. And at a' times, ahint the pen that was movin, was a puir but leal Scots heart, fu' o' prayer that this sma' effort might be acceptit o' the dear Maister—and, survivin a' the misca'in o' the pernicky and the fashionable—might bring the memory o' a worthy tongue, and the better knowledge o' a Blessed Saviour, to this ane and that ane, as they might chance to read it.

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\* \* A glossary has been added, to assist the English reader. See Appendix.