

who are to have a care to cause re-examine the animadversions of Presbyteries, and prepare a report to next General Assembly."—*Act Sess. 38. Aug. 10, 1648.*

The following Acts will of themselves sufficiently show the progress made in the unending and perfecting of this version.

1649. "The General Assembly having taken some view of the new paraphrase of the psalmes in meteer; with the corrections and animadversions thereupon sent from several persons and Presbyteries; and finding that they cannot overtake the review and examination of the whole in this Assembly, therefore, now after so much time and so great pains about the correcting and examining thereof from time to time some years by-gone, that the work may now come to some conclusion, they do ordain the brethren appointed for perusing the same during the meeting of this Assembly, viz:—Masters James Hamilton, John Smith, Hew Mackail, Robert Traill, George Hutcheson, and Robert Laurie, after the dissolving of this Assembly, to go on in that work carefully; and to report their travails to the Commission of the General Assembly for public affairs at their meeting, in November; and the said Commission after perusal and re-examination thereof, is hereby authorized with full power to conclude and establish the paraphrase, and to publish and emit the same for publick use."—*Act Sess. 39. Aug. 6, 1649.*

*Edinburgh, November 23, 1649.*

"The Commission of the General Assembly having with great diligence considered the paraphrase of the psalms in metre, sent from the Assembly of Divines in England by our Commissioners whilst they were there, as it is corrected by former General Assemblies, Committees from them, and now at last by the brethren deputed by the late Assembly for that purpose; and, having exactly examined the same, do approve the said paraphrase as it is now compiled: And therefore, according to the power given them by the said Assembly, do appoint it to be printed and published for publick use; hereby authorizing the same to be the only paraphrase of the Psalms of David to be sung in the Kirk of Scotland; and discharging the old paraphrase, and any other than this new paraphrase to be made use of in any congregation or family after the first day of May, in the year 1650. And for uniformity in this part of the worship of God, do seriously recommend to Presbyteries, to cause make publick intimation of this Act, and take special care that the same be timeously put to execution, and duly observed."

A. KER.

The version thus corrected and approved by the Church, shortly after received the approbation, and was sanctioned by the authority of the Scottish Parliament in the following Act:—

*Edinburgh, January 8, 1650.*

"The Committee of Estates having considered the English Paraphrase of the Psalms of David in metre, presented this day unto them by the Commission of the General Assembly, together with their Act, and the Act of the late Assembly, approving the said paraphrase, and appointing the same to be sung through this Kirk. Therefore, the Committee doth also approve the said paraphrase, and interpose their authority for the publishing and practising thereof, hereby ordaining the same, and no other, to be made use of throughout this Kingdom, according to the tenor of the said Acts of the General Assembly and their Commissioners."

T. HENDERSON.

This metrical version of the psalms, thus originally rendered by Rouse, and afterwards so carefully amended by the Westminster Assembly of Divines, by the several Presbyteries of the Church of Scotland, by the General Assembly at divers times, by a number of Committees appointed by the Assembly, and finally by the Commission of the Assembly, is the one used to this day by the Church of Scotland, and by Synods and Presbyteries holding connection with her in all parts of the world,—by all other Presbyterian bodies in England, Scotland, and Ireland—and by several of them both in the British Colonies and in the United States of America.

The Church of England continued to use Sternhold and Hopkins' version from the time of the Restoration, in 1660, until it was supplanted by that of Brady and Tate, which was published in 1692, and is the one at present used in that Church. Bishop Horsley, in the preface to his translation of the psalms, speaking of Sternhold and Hopkins' version, says:—

"It was a change much for the worse, when the pedantry of pretenders to taste in literary composition thrust out this excellent translation from many of our Churches, to make room for what still goes by the name of the new version, that of Tate and Brady, which, in many places where the old version is just, accurate, and dignified by its simplicity, is careless and inadequate, and, in the poverty and littleness of its style, contemptible."

Many of the Dissenters in England being desirous of having the version used by the Church of Scotland, introduced into their Chapels, an edition of it was published in England, in 1673, with a commendatory preface by Dr. Owen, and subscribed by twenty-five other divines as follows:—

"Surely singing of psalms is a duty of such comfort and profit, that it needeth not our recommendation, the new nature is instead of all arguments, which cannot be without this scriptural solace. Our devotion