

results. Some may fall by the wayside, some among thorns, some upon stony places, and only a fourth part into good ground. Be it so. If one bible in four takes effect producing thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold, the harvest will be weighty, and the church on earth and the church in heaven may shout, HARVEST HOME!

If the views which have been presented, as to the condition of the world, and the adaptation of the bible to that condition, be correct, then how immense is the responsibility of the translator of the bible. Looking at the matter in its various bearings, temporal and eternal, I can conceive of no other responsibility of equal magnitude. We are told that the Holy Spirit resides in the Word, as a saving influence. If this be in any sense true, then has the translator of the Word a most delicate service to perform, to transfuse that saving influence from one language into another. But, apart from this theory, it is very certain that he deals with words which the Holy Spirit has taught, of which the Holy Spirit is the vigilant guardian, and which the Holy Spirit employs as his chosen instrumentality. As the germ of the future plant lies compacted in the vegetable seed, and requires to be carefully handled, that it may receive no detriment, so in the word, there is a vital principle which must, for the world's sake, be preserved undamaged. Who can measure the consequences of an unfaithful translation of a single sentence.

The primary qualification, therefore, of a translator, is an upright and tender conscience, that shall make him honest before God. And having found such a one, who is, in other respects qualified for the work, we should leave him alone with God, to execute his task free from all human dictation.

How the learned fifty-four, who made our English version, could have submitted to the limitations and restrictions that were imposed upon them, I understand not. Had their royal master, in 1604, given them such directions as our Board of Missions, in 1833, gave to their missionary translators, there is reason to believe that the version would have been faithful in every particular, and that a vast amount of trouble would have been saved to the church of Christ. How noble would it have been—how worthy of his position, had his “most gracious majesty” only said, “Gentlemen, I commit to you a service that involves the highest responsibilities. Remember the sacredness of your trust, and execute it as in full view of the preciousness of the Word, the value of the souls that are to be affected by it, and the scrutinies of the final judgment. The glory of Christ, and the spiritual welfare of unborn millions are intimately connected with your fidelity. Submit to no dictation from prince or prelate. Translate the word of God for permanent use in the English tongue. Take time. Spare no expense. Do your duty. *I leave you free.*” \* \*

If any thing now remains to complete the service which I have undertaken, it is to insist, in the name of God, that his word be duly honored by ourselves, not merely by opening our hearts to its influence, but also by exalting it to its true position as the standard of moral truth and the rule of moral duty, and by paying to it, on all occasions, that deference to which it is entitled. Creeds and confessions, and summaries of faith often steal silently into the place which belongs to the word of God; and when we say, “the bible—the bible only is our religion”—we may