

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

SINCE the first edition of this book appeared, much valuable material has come into my possession. As a result, the original chapters have been expanded, and sixteen new ones have been added. Several more of the twelve presentation Bibles sent to Germany by Christopher Saur have been located, and probably all the information obtainable on this subject has come to hand.

I have visited and inspected nearly all the collections of Bibles—public and private—in this country, and in the National Library in the City of Mexico, and consequently the descriptions given in this book are not second-hand, but the result, for the most part, of personal observation. If in some cases the accounts of the various editions are little better than an array of dates and dry facts, it must be remembered that this was unavoidable, as of many of the early issues we know but little, and almost nothing of their printers and publishers.