

## TO THE READER.

THE Translator of "Matthew" presents it as a specimen and a portion of a larger work, the complete New Testament in the Scottish dialect. The whole work is now ready for the press, and will be proceeded with as soon as the sales of the present work, and advance subscriptions for the New Testament in Broad Scotch have furnished the necessary amount of funds to put the larger work through the press. To those of his Scottish friends who have expressed an interest in the work, and a desire to help it to a moderate extent, the Translator suggests their paying five dollars each, for which they will receive three copies of the New Testament; or to those less interested, two dollars for a single copy; (8vo., cloth extra.) In this way they would share in the credit, and hasten the date, of the getting out of this unique tribute to the Land, the People, and the Tongue, of the ever-remembered Scotia! Subscriptions, to be paid when the work is ready for delivery, are also solicited: \$2.00 per copy. These, while not assisting in getting out the work, are a certain sort of guarantee and encouragement to the publishers.

The undersigned holds himself responsible for all subscriptions sent in, which will be separately acknowledged by receipt; and the books posted or expressed, free, when published: or, (unforeseen Providential circumstances rendering the publication impossible,) the return of the money. But the peculiar nature of the publication, (appealing, not to the public indiscriminately, but to a distinct class scattered all over the world,) makes a certain amount of cash in hand necessary for the publication of the work.

With respect to the style: whoever now writes in Scotch must necessarily conform to the dialect of Burns. The Translator is a Borderer; but in many words he departs from Border usages, in order to conform to Burns—whose influence has made the "Ayrshire" the classical dialect of the Lowland Scotch: exactly as Petrarch and Dante, 500 years ago, by their writings, made their "Florentine" the literary dialect of the Italian. And over and above its dialectic peculiarities, this version claims to be a colloquial rendering. Many of us have wished—not as a public version, but for private study—for a familiar and colloquial rendering of the New Testament. It is a thing which will never be satisfactorily done in English; and he would be a bold man indeed who would attempt it. But, under cover of the "Scotch," the present Translator humbly intimates that he has done that very thing! It could have been rendered in a stately style, equally as native to the soil, but separated at a great distance from the kindly folk who use the colloquial Scotch among themselves.

To those who may imagine that a solemn and reverent theme must needs suffer in a familiar and "dialect" rendering, it is only necessary to pass in our reading from Burns and Scott, to Samuel Rutherford and John Knox, to see how the pithy terseness of the "Scotch" equally adapts itself to the most weighty and solemn themes and thoughts. The present work has been approached in a most reverent spirit; and (let us trust,) executed in an acceptable manner.

The completed work will have, as an appendix, a copious Glossary of all the Scottish terms used—extending to very many hundreds of words.

"Matthew," 25 cts. The New Testament, in same style and type, bound in cloth extra, \$2.00.

WILLIAM WYE SMITH,

November, 1898.

St. Catharines, Canada.

Or, IMRIE, GRAHAM & CO., Printers, 31 Church St., Toronto, Canada.

\* \* Some of these chapters have become the property of the *Sunday School Times*, Philadelphia, and are printed here by permission.—W.W.S.