

persuaded, from the spirit in which it is written, that it is no translation. One thing, however, occasions some doubt amongst them, and that is the plan of it, which is entirely new to the eastern people, and so unlike anything they have ever seen, that if it was not for some turns of expression peculiar to the East, and the impossibility of accounting for its being written in this very ancient language, many would suppose it to be the work of an European.

But whoever was the writer of it, the great noise which it makes in this city, and all over the empire, the great eagerness with which it is read by all kinds of people, and the high encomiums which are given to it by some at length determined me to attempt a translation of it into English; especially as I am persuaded it would be an agreeable present to your lordship. And I am more easily induced to make this trial, as very happily for me you cannot judge how far I have fallen short of the original, or even of the Chinese translation. One thing, however, it may perhaps be necessary to apologize for, at least to give some account of; and that is the style and manner in which I have translated it. I can assure your Lordship, that when I first sat down to the work, I had not the least intention of doing it in this way; but the sublime manner of thinking which appeared in the introduction, the great energy of expression, and the shortness of the sentences, naturally led me into this kind of style. And I hope that having so elegant a pattern to form myself upon as our version of the book of Job, the Psalms, the works of Solomon and the prophets, have been of some advantage to my translation. Such as it is, if it affords your Lordship any entertainment, I shall think myself extremely happy; and in my next will resume an account of this people and their empire. I am,

My Lord,

Yours, &c.