

The admirers of Dr. Watts are fond of representing his work as a revision, "a rich and beautiful version of the Psalms." There is a want of honesty in the manner in which the Book of Psalms has been treated, to which we would not submit in any department of science. It might be rash to make the statement, but there is room to suspect that the ease with which the churches submitted to the course pursued by Dr. Watts, has emboldened others to treat the most valuable religious publications of our most esteemed authors in a similar manner. The American Tract Society has perpetrated a virtual fraud upon the public, and an act of flagrant injustice to the authors, by sowing broadcast the works of various devoted servants of Christ, divested of the distinctive character that entitles them to bear the names of the writers upon the title-page. Nor is it a sufficient exculpation to insert a brief note, in very small type, on a page usually devoted to a notice of entry in "the Clerk's Office of the District Court," (at which the reader hardly thinks worth his while to look) which does not prepare the purchaser for the serious alterations that are made. We are furnished with "Glass's Abridgment of Hall's Contemplations," with the following notice printed in the shade: "In this edition a few passages *implying denominational peculiarities*, have been omitted." In "Baxter's Call," "a few lines touching points on which Evangelical Christians differ are omitted." When such works are filed down so as to be equally accommodated to the standard of six different denominations, there is little left that might not be as well ascribed to a dozen, as to the writers of the original. We are not disposed now to discuss the question, whether the works so modified are not better adapted to general utility, but to deny the right of any man, or society of men, to send them forth, after being subjected to mutilation, recommended by the names of men, strangers to the taste which demands the mutilation. We would see Hall, and Edwards, and Flavel, as they *were*, not as the A. T. S. think they *should have been*.

That Dr. W. has led the way in the literary injustice, hear the words of Dr. George Jenkin, of the O. S. Presbyterian Assembly, of course no prejudiced judge. "Dr. W. has attempted, professedly, to *improve* upon the sentiment, the very matter, and the order, by various omissions and additions, to fit the Psalms for christian worship. This is unfair. If Pope had taken the same license with the Poems of Homer, all the amateurs of Greek poetry in the world would have cried, Shame on the presumptuous intruder. But it is a pious and zealous Christian divine who has taken this liberty with the Songs of Zion, and almost the whole church acquiesce in it. What would we think of a French poet, who, proposing to enrich French literature with a versification of the masterpiece of the English muse, should mangle and transpose the torn limbs of Paradise Lost,