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THE
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
AND THE
PARABLE OF THE SOWER

TRANSLATED INTO THE FRANCO-NORMAN DIALECT OF GUERNSEY
FROM THE FRENCH OF LE MAISTRE DE SACY

BY
GEORGE MÉTIVIER,

TO WHICH IS ADDED A SARK VERSION OF THE PARABLE OF THE
SOWER.

EDITED
WITH PARALLEL FRENCH AND ENGLISH VERSIONS
BY
JOHN LINWOOD PITTS.

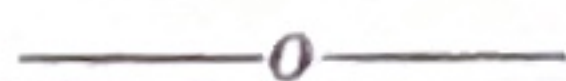
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TO
FREDERICK JOHN JEREMIE, Esq.,
M.A. TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
JURAT OF THE ROYAL COURT OF GUERNSEY,
A RIPE SCHOLAR
AND SINCERE LOVER OF HIS COUNTRY,
THESE VERSIONS OF SCRIPTURE
IN THE
FRANCO-NORMAN VERNACULAR
OF HIS NATIVE ISLAND,
ARE ADMIRINGLY DEDICATED.

INTRODUCTION.



THE increasing attention which has, during late years, been paid to the study of Norman-French, in England and on the Continent, invests the Franco-Norman Dialects of the Channel Islands with added interest both from a philological and an historical point of view. Authentic specimens of these dialects are now being widely sought after by students of comparative philology, and it is with a desire to make some such examples more readily accessible that the following typical selections have been prepared.

The Guernsey versions of *The Sermon on the Mount* and of *The Parable of the Sower*, contained in the following pages, are from the accomplished pen of the late Mr. GEORGE MÉTIVIER, the national poet of the Island, and were translated by him from the ancient French version of LE MAISTRE DE SACY. The present Editor

has placed the corresponding portion of DE SACY's version at the foot of each page, for purposes of comparison, and has also accompanied it with the English Authorised Version of 1611, in parallel columns.

The Sark version of *The Parable of the Sower*, which is given in juxta-position with the Guernsey text, owes its origin to the investigations of that distinguished philologist H.I.H. Prince LOUIS LUCIEN BONAPARTE, and is probably the first specimen of Sarkese that has ever been printed. In 1862 the Prince paid a visit to Guernsey, in order to confer with MR. MÉTIVIER upon the dialects of the Islands, and during his stay he went over to Sark, being accompanied by MR. STEPHEN MARTIN, who then held the position of Her Majesty's Sheriff, in Guernsey. While in Sark, the Prince copied down in MR. MARTIN's pocket-book a local version of the *Sower* which was recited to him by a group of the island fishermen, representing the spoken sounds phonetically, as nearly as possible. This version MR. MARTIN has ever since preserved in Prince LUCIEN's autograph, and he has now very kindly placed a copy of it at the present Editor's disposal.

As a result of this visit of the Prince, MR. MÉTIVIER also translated the whole of *St. Matthew's Gospel* into the Franco-Norman Dialect of Guernsey, and it was published by Prince LUCIEN in 1863, as one of the series in which the Prince sought to illustrate various European dialects by printing versions of this same Gospel in them.

Mr. GEORGE MÉTIVIER was a descendant of a Huguenot family, and was born in Fountain Street, St. Peter-Port, Guernsey, during the night of the 28th to 29th of January, 1790. He died in Guernsey, March 23rd, 1881, in his ninety-second year and was interred in the family vault at St. Martin's, in this island, on March 29th, 1881.

The French version of DE SACY is printed from the folio edition published at Paris in 1731, by *Guillaume Desprez, Imprimeur et Libraire ordinaire du Roy, rue Saint-Jacques, à Saint-Prosper, et aux Trois Vertus*. This text has been followed *verbatim et literatim*, and will be found to differ considerably, both as regards the spelling and the comparative absence of accents, from the usage of modern French.

LOUIS ISAAC LE MAITRE DE SACY, the author of this translation (which was made from the Latin Vulgate), was born in Paris, March 29, 1613, and died January 4, 1684, at the age of seventy-one. He was one of the distinguished band of scholars connected with the conventual establishment at Port Royal, and was among the first victims of the Jansenist persecutions. In 1666 he was incarcerated in the Bastille, where he remained for about three years, and during his imprisonment he commenced his translation of the Old Testament. His version of the New Testament was first printed by the Elzevirs, at Amsterdam, in 1667; and in 1668 it was condemned by Pope CLEMENT IX. It was, however, not entirely the work of DE SACY, for he was assisted in it by ARNAULD, NICOLE, le Duc DE LUYNES, and ANTOINE LE MAISTRE.

As a local reminiscence in connection with the English Authorised Version, it is interesting to recall the fact that one of the divines who assisted in preparing it was Dr. ADRIAN SARAVIA, at one time an assistant minister at the Church of St. Peter-Port, and the first master of QUEEN ELIZABETH'S Grammar School (founded in

1563), now Elizabeth College, Guernsey. SARAVIA was of Spanish extraction and a native of Artois, being born in 1530. Having embraced the Protestant faith he was driven from his country, and took refuge first in Germany and then in England. In 1607 he was nominated one of the translators of the English Bible ; his name appearing third, after those of ANDREWES and OVERALL, in the Westminster Committee, to which was assigned the Old Testament from Genesis to Kings II. He was successively Canon of Canterbury, and of Westminster, and is the author of a number of theological works. He died at Canterbury on the 15th of January, 1612, and was buried in the Cathedral.