

letter; which wee vnderstand is already translated into the Indian tounge; we conceiue will not onely be acceptable vnto god; but verry profitable to the poor heathen and will much tend to the promotion of the sperituall part of this worke amongst them; and therfor wee offer it not onely as our owne but as the judgment of others that the New Testament bee first printed in the Indian language.\* The printing of that part was accordingly commenced by Samuel Green, of Cambridge, the same year, when a printed sheet was sent to England as a specimen of the work.

Writing in April, 1660, the Corporation add: "We haue out of our desire to further a worke of soe great consernement hauing hopes that somthinge wilbee collected in particulare with Relation to the printing of the ould Testament, agreed with an able Printer for three years."† Marmaduke Johnson accordingly arrived in this country to superintend the printing, and possibly his arrival subsequent to the commencement of the work by Green, may account for the Gospel of John beginning with Aa; for the crowding observed in the latter part of Luke, and for the arrangement of the running title of John being different from that of the preceding part of the work. Be this as it may, this translation of the New Testament was, in the words of Gookin, "finished, printed and set forth" on the 5th September, 1661.‡ The edition was, at first, to consist of 1000, but the Corporation recommended that it should be 1500 copies. Twenty of these were ordered to be sent to England; whereof one was to be presented "well bound vp," to the King; one to the Earl of Clarendon, then lord Chancellor, and one to each of the Vice Chancellors of the Universities, "whoe haue greatly Incouraged the worke;"§ and "it is our desires," add the Commissioners, "that you will take care for the printing of the preface before the New Testament with the title according to the coppies, as alsoe to send to Mr. ashurst and Mr. huchenson about twenty copies of the New Testament to bee disposed of according to our directions and order. || The expence of "printing the title sheet to the New Testament" was £1.00.00; ¶ the "preface" consisted of an "Epistle Dedicatory" to his Majesty, and was in these words:

To The High and Mighty PRINCE, CHARLES the SECOND, by the Grace of God  
King of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c.  
*The Commissioners of the Vnited Colonies in New-England, wissh increase of all  
Happinefs, &c.*

*Most Dread Soveraign,*



Four weak apprehensions haue not misled us, this Work will be no unacceptable Present to Your Majesty, as hauing a greater Interest therein, then we believe is generally understood: which (upon this Occasion) we conceiue it our Duty to declare.

The People of these four Colonies (Confederate for Mutual Defence, in the time of the late Diffractions of our dear Native Country) Your Majesties

\* Hazard's State Papers, II, 403. † Ibid, 425.

‡ Mass. Hist. Coll., I, 176; Hazard, II., 439. § Hazard, II., 441.

¶ Letter to Mr. Usher, dated Plymouth, the 13th Sept., 1661, *Hazard's State Papers*, II., 446. Mr. Thomas seems to infer from it, that the Dedication accompanied only the few copies of the Testament sent to England, *Hist. of Printing*, I., 472. At page 255 same vol., he states that the Psalms in Indian Metre, accompanied the New Testament; but there is no evidence in support of that statement, in the Minutes of the Commissioners; and there is no allusion to the Psalms in the order to Mr. Usher, directing the transmission of copies of the Testament to England. † Hazard, II., 459.