



## LETTERS OF EDMUND WATERTON TO "THE TABLET"

### ■ "LIBELLUS PRECUM."

18th August 1883

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

SIR,—The celebrated *Libellus Precum* [manual of prayers] used at Stonyhurst has never been translated into English; but the method of hearing Mass which it contains was translated into English in 1847, and printed by T. and A. Bowman, Richmond, Yorkshire.

It is a compilation from old Prayer Books edited by Fathers of the Society of Jesus. The earliest edition of the *Libellus Precum* under that name was printed at St. Omer's in 1730; but it does not contain the *Officium Parvum* of Our Lady and the Office of the Dead. These were added to the Manchester edition printed by Haydock and Wardle in 1805, but the little offices, with the exception of that of the Immaculate Conception were left out. In 1823, Rocliffe, of Liverpool, printed a verbatim reprint of the St. Omer's edition of 1730, with the addition of the Offices of Our Lady and of the Dead, and the Psalms of Vespers. To the subsequent editions all additions have been made.

Your obedient servant, Aug 14, 1883. EDMUND WATERTON.

The Tablet, the International Catholic News Weekly

<http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/search?term=Edmund+Waterton&decade=1880s&keyword=Edmund+Waterton>

on  
Page 21, 18th August 1883

~~~~

### ■ THE JESUS PSALTER

15th December 1883

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

Sirs,—This prayer was composed by F. Richard Whytford, Brigittine\* of Syon House who calls himself in his translation of the *Imitation of Christ* (London : John Cawood, 1556) "the olde wretched brother of Syon Rycharde Whytforde." There is no old copy in the British Museum ; and I have searched for one in every direction, but in vain. The earliest edition I know of is one printed at Douay, A.D. 1632, or 1638, or perhaps 1628. I forget which, at this moment ; but a copy is in the Stonyhurst Library.

EDMUND WATERTON.

(\* The Order of the Most Holy Saviour (Latin: *Ordo sanctissimi Salvatoris*), abbreviated as O.Ss.S., and informally known as the Brigittine or Bridgettine Order is a monastic religious order of Augustinian nuns, Religious Sisters and monks founded by Saint Birgitta (Saint Bridget) of Sweden in 1344, and approved by Pope Urban V in 1370.)

<http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/15th-december-1883/24/the-jesus-psalter>

Page 24, 15th December 1883

~~~~



## LETTERS OF EDMUND WATERTON TO "THE TABLET"

### ■ THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "ECCLES."

30th January 1886

SIR,—In case Mgr. Gradwell has not consulted Domesday Book, it may interest him to hear that the "Eccles," which he describes in his most interesting letter in the Tablet of yesterday, is given in Domesday as Ecclesia.

Your obliged and faithful servant,

EDMUND WATERTON. Deeping Waterton Hall, January 24th, 1886

<http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/30th-january-1886/23/thie-origin-of-the-name-eccles>

Page 23, 30th January 1886

~~~~~

### ■ A TRANSLATOR OF THE "DIES IRAE."

1st May 1886

SIR,—As Notes and Queries have been drawn blank, I should be much obliged if any reader of the Tablet could give me the name of the translator of the Dies Irae, whose version begins thus :

A Day of wrath that Dreadful day  
Which turns to Fire this world of Clay  
So do the Sibils and great David say.  
What horror then will each invade,  
When noise of Christ's approach is made  
That Judge that Sun from whom no Crime finds shade.

This was first published in A.D. 1694. In putting this query, my principal object is to identify the translator, who at the same time translated the four books of the *Imitation of Christ* into five-foot verse. This edition was printed in 1694, without name of place or publisher. Hitherto this translation of 1694 has been considered as the first edition of Luke Milbourne's translation published in 1697 ; but having had recently to compare them, I was surprised to find the two editions wholly different. Consequently the hitherto supposed second edition of the imitation, "made English by Luke Milbourne, a Presbyter of the Church of England," (London : Printed for Abel Roper at the Black Boy, and Roger Clavel at the Peacock, in Fleet-street, 1697) is in reality the first of his translation. The translator of the edition of 1694 begins his epistle to the reader thus : "Here, Reader, thou hast Thomas à Kempis in a new dress, his work cobled into Rime." Further on he says : "To proceed any further in particularizing the guilty, were to tread too near on the heels of truth (as others said before me), and have my brains dash'd out for a reward, or hinder at least many to read this little Book whereunto I invite them with the great Attractive of Kempis his name that famous virtuous follower of Christ's life ; mine for the Printers' sake shall be conceal'd." This epistle ends with a " Farewel ; " and on the following page the translator begins anew : "Some years since I translated the dismall Hymn of Dies Ira into English, that sad and tragical description of doomsday."

Who was this translator of the Dies Irae, and who also " cobled the Imitation into Rime ? "

I am, Sir, your obliged and faithful servant,

EDMUND WATERTON.

Deeping Waterton Hall.

<http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/1st-may-1886/23/a-translator-of-the-dies-1111e>

Page 23, 1st May 1886

**Note.** "Dies Irae" (Day of Wrath) is a Latin hymn attributed to either Thomas of Celano of the Franciscan Order (1200 – c. 1265) or to Latino Malabranca Orsini (d.1294), lector at the Dominican studium at Santa Sabina, the forerunner of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum in Rome. The hymn dates from at least the thirteenth century, though it is possible that it is much older, with some sources ascribing its origin to St. Gregory the Great (d. 604), St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), or St. Bonaventure (1221-1274).

[All web pages accessed 16 April 2016.]