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HUGO GROTIUS

DE

VERITATE

RELIGIONIS CHRISTIANÆ.

A New Edition,

WITH

ENGLISH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,

FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS.

BY THE

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Second Edition.

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P R E F A C E.

IN publishing this edition of Grotius "de Veritate Religionis Christianæ," the editor feels himself bound to ascribe whatever benefit may accrue from the work to the Rev. R. Parkinson, D.D., Principal of St. Bees College, one of the Divines of the present day who duly appreciate the merits of the author, and the value and excellence of his writings; for under his auspices, and at his suggestion, the present edition is sent forth. The editor deems he may not unreasonably hope that some advantage may result from his researches, since they comprise the thought, learning, and labours of men eminent in their generation and day, tending to elucidate a subject the most important that can occupy the mind of man. In the course of this undertaking, his own mind has become more impressed with a sense of the value of this excellent book, from a perception of the great variety of matter which it contains, and from observing how frequently the arguments of our greatest divines coincide with those of Grotius, or peradventure are even borrowed from him. Much valuable matter has necessarily been omitted which would have in-

creased the interest, and doubtless the usefulness, of the work; but which could not be inserted without enlarging the publication beyond the limits which seem desirable for a work of this nature, and for the purpose for which it is particularly designed. It being therefore necessary to make a selection, the editor has occasionally simply *given references* when the subject is treated at too great length, and to those authors whom he believes to be accessible to the generality of students; and the edition is now offered to the public, with an earnest hope that it may lead many to a more serious consideration and diligent investigation of the evidences of their religion, and may prove especially beneficial to the members of St. Bees College, in the prosecution of their Biblical studies, for whose use it is primarily intended, and in whose welfare the editor, from his intimate connexion with them, is naturally and anxiously interested.

St. Bees, May 10, 1849.

MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

THE circumstances under which the present work was written are referred to by the author both in the beginning, and the concluding chapter. He was desirous of *giving to his mind the liberty which, while he was writing it, was denied to his body.* And he begs his readers to consider the time and place where the work was rather poured forth than elaborated. It was composed, then, by the writer while in prison, whither he had been cast by the rancour of Calvinistic hatred. For when his country was rent asunder by the contending parties of Calvin and Arminius, he embraced the latter, which, unhappily for him, did not find favour in the eyes of those in authority.

HUGO GROTIUS was born at Delft, in Holland, on the 10th of April, 1583. The word *groot* signifies *great*, and is said to have been given to an ancestor of Hugo for some signal service which he had rendered to his sovereign. John, the father of the subject of this memoir, was both a lawyer of eminence and a general scholar: and all the biographers of Grotius assert that he discovered in his earliest years great aptitude for the acquisition of learning, great application, together with a most retentive memory. Such rapid progress did he make in his studies, that at the age of fifteen he had attained to distinction in the knowledge of philosophy, divinity, and civil law. As early as the year 1598, he