

**S. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON  
THE PRIESTHOOD. IN  
SIX BOOKS. TRANSLATED  
FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK**

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S. John Chrysostom on the Priesthood. In Six Books. Translated from the Original Greek by  
John Chrysostom & B. Harris Cowper

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B. HARRIS COWPER.

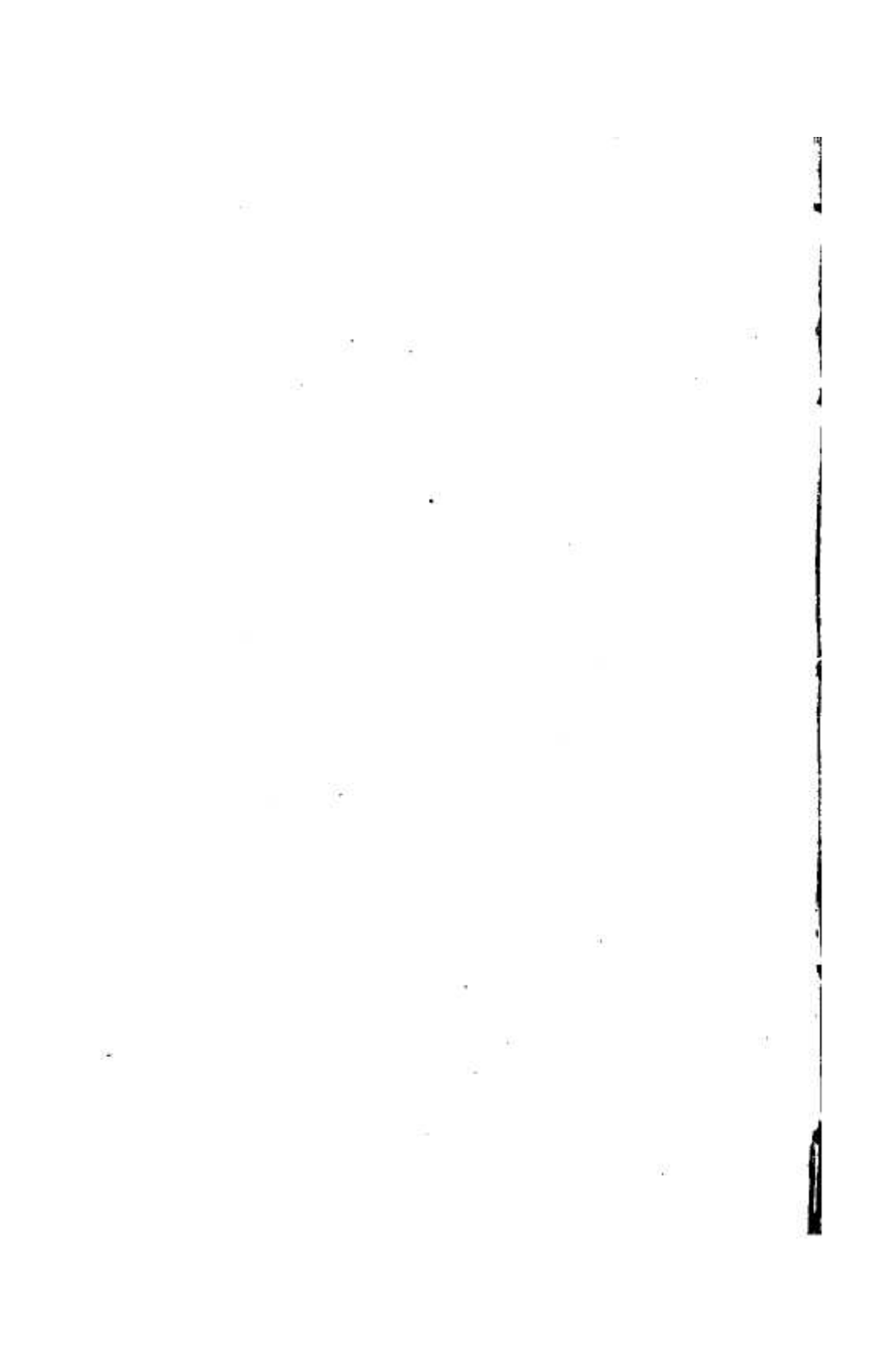
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## INTRODUCTION.

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OF the translations of this work into other languages I need say nothing. Those which exist in English, so far as I can ascertain, are the following:—that of Hollier (London, 1728); that of Bunce (London, 1759); that of Hohler (Cambridge, 1837); and that of Marsh (London, 1844). All these may be regarded as books of uncommon occurrence. I have no occasion to speak of their merit. Only one of them has been before me during the execution of the present version. I refer to that by Mr. Hohler, which has undoubtedly many happy renderings, but not a few so ludicrously wrong that I have been amazed. Why, I know not, but I have been asked from time to time to do what I have now done. My first idea was to go carefully over one of the old versions and to republish it with any alterations which seemed necessary. But considering all the circum-

stances of the case, and that such a volume would at best be regarded as a mere *sartor resartos*, I resolved to translate the book for myself as soon as my leisure permitted. I have done so, and venture to lay the result before those who may be interested in it.

Although twenty years have come and gone since I made the acquaintance of the six books on the Priesthood, I send them forth with the same impressions as I received at the first: it is often difficult to convey the sense in tolerably intelligible English without a periphrasis; the work is one of extraordinary excellence, both for its language and its ideas; it will always be valuable to the aspirant to ministerial honour and usefulness; it is characterised by serious deficiencies which render other teachers necessary; and it is a remarkably interesting study for all who wish to know more of the Church of the latter half of the fourth century.

The opinions I have now uttered may be developed with some advantage.

1. With reference to the translation. I have said 'it is often difficult to convey the sense in tolerably intelligible English without a periphrasis;' and I may add that cases also occur in which I have felt it would be better for my readers if I slightly condensed the expression of the original. My aim has been throughout to steer as closely to the text as was possible without being excessively bald. Yet I have taken so much liberty in the construction of my sentences that I have not produced a mere *ordo verborum*. Consequently some may find that in construing the Greek, my version will not supersede the necessity for study. I wish it to be so. In rendering certain words I have not always used the same English term because it is notorious that many words must be viewed in their relations to the passages in which they stand. There are certain other words, chiefly technical and professional, with which I have desired to take no liberty whatever. If the terms of office employed by S. Chrysostom are really not always identical with those now in use in