

Sir Thomas Elyot  
(?1490-1546)

Isocrates, *The Doctrinall of Princes*  
(1533?)

PREFACE

This little booke ( whiche in mine opinion) is to be compared in counsaile and short sentence with any booke (holy scripture execepte I have translated out of Greeke, not presumyng to contend with them, which have done the same in latine : but to thintent onely that I wolde assaie, if our Englishe tunge mought receive the quicke and propre sentences pronounced by the Greekes. And in this experience I have founde ( if I be not much deceived) that the forme of speakyng, used of the Greekes, called in Greeke and also in Latine, Phrasis, muche nere approacheth to that whiche at this daie we use : than the order of the latine tunge : I meane in the sentences, and not in the woordes : whiche I doubte not shall be affirmed by them who sufficiently instructed in all the said three tungen, shall with a good iudgement read this work. And where I have put at the beginning this word, vessel, plate, or for that which is in Greeke, brasse or golde wrought, it is perceived of every wise man, for what intent I did it. Finally the chief cause of this my little exercise was: to the intent that thei, which do not understande greeke nor latine, should not lacke the commoditee and pleasure, whiche maie be taken in readyng therof. Wherefore, if I shall perceive you to take this myne enterprise thankfully, I shall that little portion of life, which remaineth (God sendyng me quietnesse of minde) bestowe in preparing for you such bookes, in the readyng whereof, ye shall finde bothe honest passetyme and also profitable counsaile and lernyng. .

Fare ye well.

