

Marius Mercator

## PREFACE TO NESTOR'S *SERMONS*

(c. 430)

Driven by zeal for the Catholic faith, I have put considerable care into translating from Greek into Latin some of the blasphemous sayings and writings of Nestorius, once Bishop of Constantinople. For my brothers in Faith who speak my language must both know and repudiate them. In my work as a translator, I have tried to translate word for word insofar as this was possible, to avoid being proved a falsifier, rather than a true translator.

So pardon me, kind reader, if your ear is shocked by a less than elegant style or a plethora of strange coinages. I chose rather to be vulnerable to the tongues of calumny, rather than to wander far from the true sense to be expressed, especially where there is every danger of mistakes.

Therefore from this moment let our darling pedants busy themselves in inspecting each one of our syllables and in sieving out words. It does not worry me, and I do not regard it as significant: I am sure that nobody can accuse me of falsifying the thought of the author.

I also know that I am to be taken to task for some inelegancies forced on me by the need to keep the exact meaning of the Greek. Let anybody say of me what he wishes, let anybody feel what he wants, I am protected by the judgement of the learned who never fail to take pleasure in the simple beauty of truth [...]

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