

INTRODUCTION.

BY THE EDITOR.

TRENCH, ELLICOTT, AND LIGHTFOOT ON REVISION.

As the question of revising for public use the English Version of the Holy Scriptures has at last assumed a definite practical shape in Great Britain, and must before long claim the serious attention of all churches which use the same version, it occurred to me that this important subject could not be better introduced to American scholars than by a republication of the recent treatises of Archbishop Trench, Bishop Ellicott, and Professor Lightfoot, on the principles and mode of revision. Some friends, whose judgment I value, agreed with me in this opinion. Accordingly, I asked the consent of the esteemed authors, which was promptly and cheerfully given.

The eminent divines, whose works are united in this volume, are above all others qualified to speak with authority on the subject of revision. They bring to its discussion ample learning in classical, Biblical, and English literature, a high order of exegetical skill and tact, sound judgment, long experience, conservative tact, profound reverence for the Word of God, and a warm affection for the Authorized Version. They are also well acquainted with the labors of German divines, who have made large and valuable contributions to every department of Biblical science. They adorn high places of honor and influence in the Church of England, which gave us the present version, and has a hereditary right and duty to take the lead in its

improvement. They are active members of the British Committee on Revision, and fairly represent its ruling spirit and tendency.

Going over the same ground, these authors can hardly avoid repetition. They independently agree on the fundamental principles and chief improvements. At the same time, they represent the progressive stages through which the revision movement has passed within the last twelve years.

Archbishop Trench wrote his work in 1859, before the Revision Committee was organized, with the intention not so much either to advocate or to oppose revision, as to prepare the way for it by a calm, cautious, and judicious examination of the strength and weakness, the merits and faults of the Authorized Version, and arrived at the conclusion that revision will come, and ought to come, though it has come sooner than he at that time anticipated or desired.*

Eleven years later (1870), soon after the Convocation of Canterbury had taken the first step toward an organized effort of revision, Bishop Ellicott followed with his treatise, presenting the principles and aims of the present revision movement, and his own experiences when acting as one of five Anglican clergymen in a previous attempt to revise some portions of the English New Testament. He reviews the recent labors in the department of textual criticism, refutes the popular objections, and gives judicious recommendations, and a few samples of revision, selecting the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, and four of the most difficult chapters of the Epistle to the Romans.

Professor Lightfoot, of Cambridge, whose name recalls another of England's greatest and most useful Biblical

* The first edition was reprinted in New York, 1858, but was superseded by the greatly improved edition of 1859.

scholars, prepared his work in 1871, after the Revision Companies had begun their sessions in the Deanery of Westminster. He therefore represents the actual work of revision, and discusses it with such learning and ability, and in so catholic a spirit, as to inspire confidence in its ultimate success.

It seems proper that I should add to these prefatory remarks some account of the revision movement, and its present prospects in the United States.

The British Revision Committee.

The present organized effort to revise the Authorized English Version of the Holy Scriptures originated, after long previous discussions, in the Convocation of Canterbury. This body, at its session May 6, 1870, took the following action, proposed by a committee which consisted of eight bishops, the late Dean Alford, Dean Stanley, and several other dignitaries :

1. That it is desirable that a revision of the Authorized Version of the Holy Scriptures be undertaken.
2. That the revision be so conducted as to comprise both marginal renderings and such emendations as it may be found necessary to insert in the text of the Authorized Version.
3. That in the above resolutions we do not contemplate any new translation of the Bible, or any alteration of the language, except where, in the judgment of the most competent scholars, such change is necessary.
4. That in such necessary changes, the style of the language employed in the existing version be closely followed.
5. That it is desirable that Convocation should nominate a body of its own members to undertake the work of revision, who shall be at liberty to invite the co-operation of any eminent for scholarship, to whatever nation or religious body they may belong.

The report was accepted unanimously by the Upper House and by a great majority of the Lower House. A committee was also appointed, consisting of eight bishops and eight presbyters, to take the necessary steps for carrying out the resolutions.

The Convocation of York, owing mainly to the influence of the excellent Archbishop Thomson, did not fall in with the movement, and is therefore not represented in the Committee on Revision. But a favorable change is gradually taking place, and some of the most influential members of the Convocation, as Dean Howson, of Chester, are hearty supporters of revision.

Rules of the British Committee.

The Committee of bishops and presbyters appointed by the Convocation of Canterbury, at its first meeting, the Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Samuel Wilberforce) presiding, adopted the following resolutions and rules as the fundamental principle on which the revision is to be conducted:

‘RESOLVED,—‘I. That the committee, appointed by the Convocation of Canterbury at its last session, separate itself into two companies, the one for the revision of the Authorized Version of the Old Testament, the other for the revision of the Authorized Version of the New Testament.

‘II. That the company for the revision of the Authorized Version of the Old Testament consist of the Bishops of St. Davids, Llandaff, Ely, and Bath and Wells, and of the following members from the Lower House—Archdeacon Rose, Canon Selwyn, Dr. Jebb, and Dr. Kay.

‘III. That the company for the revision of the Authorized Version of the New Testament consist of the Bishops of Winchester, Gloucester and Bristol, and Salisbury, and of the following members from the Lower House, the Prolocutor, the Deans of Canterbury and Westminster, and Canon Blakesley.

‘IV. That the first portion of the work to be undertaken by the Old Testament Company be the revision of the Authorized Version of the Pentateuch.

‘V. That the first portion of the work to be undertaken by the New Testament Company be the revision of the Auth. Vers. of the Synoptical Gospels.

‘VI. That the following scholars and divines be invited to join the Old Testament Company :

ALEXANDER, Dr. W. L.	GINSBURG, Dr.	PEROWNE, Professor J. H.
CHENERY, Professor	GOTCH, Dr.	PLUMPERE, Professor
COOK, Canon	HARRISON, Archdeacon	PUSEY, Canon [declined]
DAVIDSON, Professor A. B.	LEATHER, Professor	WRIGHT, Dr. (British Museum)
DAVIES, Dr. B.	M’GILL, Professor (deceased)	WRIGHT, W. A. (Cambridge).*
FAIRBAIRN, Professor	PAYNE SMITH, Canon (now Dean of Canterbury)	
FIELD, Rev. F.		

‘VII. That the following scholars and divines be invited to join the New Testament Company :

* Dr. Douglas and Dr. Weir, of Glasgow (Presbyterians), and J. D. Geden (Wesleyan), were subsequently added to the Old Testament Company.

ANGUS, Dr.	LEE, Archdeacon	SMITH, Rev. G. VANCE
BROWN, Dr. David	LIGHTFOOT, Dr.	SOOTT, Dr. (Balliol Coll.)
DUBLIN, Archbishop of	MILLIGAN, Professor	SCRIVENER, Rev. F. H.
EADIE, Dr.	MOULTON, Professor	ST. ANDREW'S, Bishop of
HORT, Rev. F. J. A.	NEWMAN, Dr. J. H. (declined)	TREGELLES, Dr.
HUMPHRY, Rev. W. G.	NEWTN, Professor	VAUGHAN, Dr.
KENNEDY, Canon	ROBERTS, Dr. A.	WESTCOOT, Canon.

' VIII. That the general principles to be followed by both companies be as follows :

' 1. To introduce as few alterations as possible in the text of the Authorized Version consistently with faithfulness.

' 2. To limit, as far as possible, the expression of such alterations to the language of the Authorized and earlier English versions.

' 3. Each company to go twice over the portion to be revised, once provisionally, the second time finally, and on principles of voting as hereinafter is provided.

' 4. That the text to be adopted be that for which the evidence is decidedly preponderating ; and that when the text so adopted differs from that from which the Authorized Version was made, the alteration be indicated in the margin.

' 5. To make or retain no change in the text on the second final revision by each company except *two thirds* of those present approve of the same, but on the first revision to decide by simple majorities.

' 6. In every case of proposed alteration that may have given rise to discussion, to defer the voting thereupon till the next meeting whensoever the same shall be required by one third of those present at the meeting, such intended vote to be announced in the notice for the next meeting.

' 7. To revise the headings of chapters, pages, paragraphs, italics, and punctuation.

' 8. To refer, on the part of each company, when considered desirable, to divines, scholars, and literary men, whether at home or abroad, for their opinions.

' IX. That the work of each company be communicated to the other as it is completed, in order that there may be as little deviation from uniformity in language as possible.

' X. That the special or by-rules for each company be as follows :

' 1. To make all corrections in writing previous to the meeting.

' 2. To place all the corrections due to textual considerations on the left-hand margin, and all other corrections on the right-hand margin.

' 3. To transmit to the chairman, in case of being unable to attend, the corrections proposed in the portion agreed upon for consideration.

' May 25th, 1870.

S. WINTON. *Chairman.* *

From this list of names, it will be seen that the Committee, in enlarging its membership, has shown good judgment and eminent impartiality and catholicity. Under the fifth resolution of the Convocation of Canterbury, it was em-

* Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester.

powered 'to invite the co-operation of any eminent for scholarship, *to whatever nation or religious body they may belong.*' The Committee accordingly solicited the co-operation of the most distinguished Biblical scholars, not only from all schools and parties of the Church of England, but also from Presbyterians, Independents, Baptists, Wesleyans, and other Christian denominations. With two or three exceptions, the invitation was accepted by all. Dean Alford, one of the most active promoters of the revision movement, died prematurely (January, 1871), but his works remain to aid the cause. Dr. Tregelles is prevented by feeble health from taking an active part; but he is present in spirit by his critical edition of the Greek Testament, to which he has devoted the best years of his life. The two companies hold sessions four days every month in the venerable Deanery of Westminster. One company occupies the historic Jerusalem Chamber, where the Westminster Assembly met, and where the Convocation of Canterbury holds its sessions.

The Committee includes a large portion of the ripest and soundest Biblical scholarship of Great Britain. I do not hesitate to say that in ability, learning, tact, and experience it is superior to any previous combination for a similar purpose, not excepting the forty-seven revisers of King James, most of whom are now forgotten. Trench, Ellicott, Lightfoot, Stanley, Wordsworth, and the late Dean Alford stand first among the modern exegetes of the Church of England, and Alexander, Angus, Brown, Eadie, Fairbairn, Milligan, hold a similar rank among the other denominations. There are no textual critics now living superior to Tregelles, Scrivener, Westcott, and Hort (except Tischendorf in Germany, who stands first in reputation and in the extent of his labors and resources).

It was my privilege, during a visit to England in 1871,

to attend, by special invitation, the sessions of the two companies in the Deanery of Westminster, and to observe their mode of operation. I was very favorably impressed with the scholarly ability, the conscientious accuracy and thoroughness, the reverent spirit and truly Christian harmony which characterize the labors of the revisers. Every question of textual criticism and exegesis receives careful attention, and every word and its best rendering are minutely discussed. The revisers come thoroughly prepared to each session, the several parts of the task, as readings, marginal references, being assigned to sub-committees. In this way they finish, on an average, about forty verses a day.

Such an amount of work bestowed on the Book of books can not be in vain. It may take seven or ten years till the revision is finished, but it will be all the better for it. There is no need of haste in so important and responsible an undertaking. The revisers have the power in their hands; they can supply their vacancies, add to their number, and prolong their labors as the case may require. Their services are gratuitous. The two Universities, in consideration of the copyright of the revised edition, have undertaken to pay the cost of printing and other expenses. But, until the whole is completed, no parts will be published except for the strictly private use of the revisers. This is no doubt a wise course, and will prevent much premature and unnecessary criticism.

I add a full list of the members of the British Committee as it was furnished to me in England, excluding those who declined or died, and including those who are members *ex officio*, or who have been added since the organization.

(1.) OLD TESTAMENT REVISION COMPANY.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of BATH and WELLS, Palace, Wells, Somerset.
The Right Rev. the Bishop of ELY, Palace, Ely.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of LLANDAFF, Bishop's Court, Llandaff.
 The Right Rev. the Bishop of ST. DAVID'S (*Chairman*), Abergwili Palace,
 Carmarthen.

The Very Rev. the Dean of CANTERBURY, Deanery, Canterbury.
 The Ven. Archdeacon HARRISON, Canterbury.
 The Ven. Archdeacon ROSE, Houghton Conquest, Ampthill.
 The Rev. Canon SELWYN, Trumpington Road, Cambridge.
 The Rev. Dr. KAY, Great Leighs, Chelmsford.

The Rev. Dr. ALEXANDER, Pinkieburn, Musselburgh, Edinburgh.
 R. L. BENSLEY, Esq., University Library, Cambridge.
 Professor CHENERY, Reform Club, S.W.
 The Rev. Professor DAVIDSON, 10 Rillbank Terrace, Edinburgh.
 The Rev. Dr. DAVIES, Baptist College, Regent's Park, N.W.
 The Rev. Dr. DOUGLAS, 10 Fitzroy Place, Glasgow.
 The Rev. Principal FAIRBAIRN, 13 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow.
 The Rev. F. FIELD, 2 Carlton Terrace, Heigham, Norwich.
 The Rev. J. D. GEDEN, Wesleyan College, Didsbury, Manchester.
 The Rev. Dr. GINSBURG, Holm Lea, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks.
 The Rev. Dr. GOTCH, Baptist College, Bristol.
 The Rev. Professor LEATHES, King's College, London, 47 Priory Road.
 The Rev. Canon PEROWNE, Trinity College, Cambridge.
 The Rev. Professor PLUMPTRE, Pluckley, Ashford.
 The Rev. Professor WEIR, University, Glasgow.

W. ALDIS WRIGHT, Esq. (*Secretary*), Trinity College, Cambridge.

(2.) NEW TESTAMENT REVISION COMPANY.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of WINCHESTER, Winchester House, S.W.
 The Right Rev. the Bishop of GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL (*Chairman*),
 Palace, Gloucester.
 The Right Rev. the Bishop of SALISBURY, Palace, Salisbury.
 The Very Rev. the Dean of WESTMINSTER, Deanery, Westminster, S.W.
 The Very Rev. Dr. SCOTT, Dean of Rochester, Rochester.
 The Ven. the Prolocutor, The Prebendal, Aylesbury.
 The Rev. Canon BLAKESLEY, Vicarage, Ware.

The Most Rev. the Archbishop of DUBLIN, Palace, Dublin.
 The Right Rev. the Bishop of ST. ANDREW'S, The Fen House, Perth.
 The Rev. Dr. Angus, Baptist College, Regent's Park, N.W.
 The Rev. Dr. DAVID BROWN, Free Church College, Aberdeen.
 The Rev. Professor EADIE, 6 Thornville Terrace, Glasgow.
 The Rev. F. J. A. HORT, 6 St. Peter's Terrace, Cambridge.
 The Rev. W. G. HUMPHRY, Vicarage, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, W.C.
 The Rev. Canon KENNEDY, The Elms, Cambridge.
 The Ven. Archdeacon LEE, Dublin.
 The Rev. Canon LIGHTFOOT, Trinity College, Cambridge.
 The Rev. Professor MILLIGAN, University, Aberdeen.

- The Rev. Professor MOULTON, Wesleyan College, Richmond, Surrey.
The Rev. Professor NEWTH, 25 Clifton Road, N. W.
The Rev. Professor ROBERTS, St. Andrew's.
The Rev. Dr. G. VANCE SMITH, York.
The Rev. Dr. SCRIVENER, Gerrans, Grampond.
Dr. TREGELLES, 6 Portland Square, Plymouth.
The Rev. Dr. VAUGHAN, Master of the Temple, The Temple, London.
The Rev. Canon WESTCOTT, Precincts, Peterborough.
The Rev. J. TROUTBECK (*Secretary*), 4 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

American Co-operation.

The British Committee is fully competent, without foreign aid, to do justice to the work committed to its care. Yet, in view of its practical aim to furnish a revision not for scholars, but for the churches, it is of great importance to secure, at the outset, the sympathy and co-operation of Biblical scholars in the United States, where the Authorized Version is as widely used and as highly respected as in Great Britain. Rival revisions would only add new fuel to sectarian divisions already too numerous among Protestants. Let us hold fast by all means to the strongest bond of interdenominational and international union which we have in a common Bible. The new revision, when completed, should appear with the imprimatur of the united Biblical scholarship of English-speaking Christendom.

In August, 1870, Dr. Joseph Angus, President of Regent's Park College, London, and one of the British revisers, arrived in New York, with a letter from Bishop Ellicott, chairman of the New Testament Company, authorizing him to open negotiations for the formation of an American Committee of Revision. At his request, I prepared a draft of rules for co-operation, and a list of names of Biblical scholars who would probably best represent the different denominations and literary institutions in this movement. The suggestions were submitted to the British Committee and substantially approved. Then followed

an interesting official correspondence, conducted, on behalf of the British Committee, by the Bishop of Winchester, the Dean of Westminster, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and Dr. Angus. I was empowered by the British Committee to select and invite scholars from non-Episcopal Churches; the nomination of members from the American Episcopal Church was, for obvious reasons, placed in the hands of some of its Bishops; but, as they declined to take action, I was requested to fill out the list. It is not necessary, in this place, to enter into details. I will only state the result of the negotiations.

List of American Revisers.

THE OLD TESTAMENT COMPANY.

Prof. THOMAS J. CONANT, D.D.	Brooklyn, N. Y.
“ GEORGE E. DAY, D.D.	New Haven, Conn.
“ JOHN DE WITT, D.D.	New Brunswick, N. J.
“ WILLIAM HENRY GREEN, D.D.	Princeton, N. J.
“ GEORGE EMLÉN HARE, D.D.	Philadelphia, Pa.
“ CHARLES P. KRAUTH, D.D.	Philadelphia, Pa.
“ JOSEPH PACKARD, D.D.	Fairfax, Va.
“ CALVIN E. STOWE, D.D.	Cambridge, Mass.
“ JAMES STRONG, D.D.	Madison, N. J.
“ C. V. A. VAN DYCK, M.D.*	Beyrut, Syria.
“ TAYLER LEWIS, LL.D.	Schenectady, N. Y.

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPANY.

Right Rev. ALFRED LEE, D.D.	Wilmington, Delaware.
Prof. EZRA ABBOT, D.D., LL.D.	Cambridge, Mass.
Rev. G. R. CROOKS, D.D.	New York.
Prof. H. B. HACKETT, D.D., LL.D.	Rochester, N. Y.
“ JAMES HADLEY, LL.D.	New Haven, Conn.
“ CHARLES HODGE, D.D., LL.D.	Princeton, N. J.
“ A. C. KENDRICK, D.D.	Rochester, N. Y.
“ MATTHEW B. RIDDLE, D.D.	Hartford, Conn.
“ CHARLES SHORT, LL.D.	New York.
“ HENRY B. SMITH, D.D., LL.D.	New York.
“ J. HENRY THAYER, D.D.	Andover, Mass.
“ W. F. WARREN, D.D.	Boston, Mass.

* Dr. Van Dyck, the distinguished translator of the Arabic Bible, can not be expected to attend the meetings, but may be occasionally consulted on questions involving a thorough knowledge of Semitic languages.

Rev. EDWARD A. WASHBURN, D.D. New York.
 " THEO. D. WOOLSEY, D.D., LL.D. New Haven, Conn.
 Prof. PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D. New York.

In the delicate task of selection, reference was had, first of all, to ability, experience, and reputation in Biblical learning and criticism; next, to denominational connection and standing, so as to have a fair representation of the leading Churches and theological institutions; and last, to local convenience, in order to secure regular attendance. Some distinguished scholars were necessarily omitted, but may be added hereafter by the committee itself.

So far as I know, the selection has given general satisfaction. A few gentlemen (not included in the above list) declined the invitation for personal reasons, but not from any hostility to the pending revision. One of these, a learned Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, wrote to me: 'Let me assure you, it is from no feeling that a revision is not needed, nor yet from any unwillingness to invoke aid in making it from others than members of the Church of England, that I have been led to this view of my duty.' Another wrote: 'Respecting the success of the enterprise I have little doubt. The result of the best scholarship of the Church in England and America will command assent, and the opposition will speedily subside.'

First Meeting of the American Revisers.

On the 7th of December, 1871, a number of American revisers convened in New York for the purpose of effecting a temporary organization and adopting a Constitution. The meeting was very pleasant and harmonious. The following extract from the Minutes contains the items of public interest:

'At a meeting of gentlemen invited by Rev. Philip Schaff, D.D., to meet this day at his study, No. 40 Bible House, New York, for the purpose of forming an organization to co-operate with the British Committee in the re-