

**STATEMENTS, AND DOCUMENTS,  
CONCERNING THE RECENT ACTION OF THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE AMERICAN  
BIBLE SOCIETY, TOUCHING THE STANDARD  
EDITION OF THE ENGLISH SCRIPTURES, AS  
CIRCULATED BY THAT SOCIETY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649515905

Statements, and Documents, concerning the Recent Action of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, Touching the Standard Edition of the English Scriptures, as Circulated by That Society by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

# **VARIOUS**

**STATEMENTS, AND DOCUMENTS,  
CONCERNING THE RECENT ACTION OF THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE AMERICAN  
BIBLE SOCIETY, TOUCHING THE STANDARD  
EDITION OF THE ENGLISH SCRIPTURES, AS  
CIRCULATED BY THAT SOCIETY**



STATEMENTS, AND DOCUMENTS,

CONCERNING THE RECENT ACTION

OF

The Board of Managers

OF THE

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY,

TOUCHING THE

STANDARD EDITION OF THE ENGLISH SCRIPTURES,  
AS CIRCULATED BY THAT SOCIETY.

PUBLISHED BY MEMBERS OF THE LATE COMMITTEE ON VERSIONS.

NEW YORK:

JOHN F. TROW, BOOK & JOB PRINTER, 877 & 879 BROADWAY.  
1858.

Bequest of  
Prof. J. H. Thayer  
March 20, 1902.  
(977)

BS  
186  
.S72  
1858

## CONTENTS.

---

Extracts from the original Report of the Committee on Versions (1861),	pp. 5—13
Characteristics of the recent Standard Edition,	pp. 13—24
Approving Action of the Board and Secretaries,	pp. 24—26
Opposition to the Standard Edition,	pp. 26—30
Report of Committee on Versions, Nov. 1867,	pp. 30—34
Second Series of Resolutions of do.,	pp. 35—36
Majority Report of Select Committee,	pp. 37—40
Minority Report of do.,	pp. 40—63
Action of the Board of Managers,	pp. 63—64
Protest of Members of the Committee on Versions,	pp. 64—67
Dr. Turner's paper of Resignation,	pp. 67—70
Conclusion,	pp. 70—71

## APPENDIX.

A. Paper by Dr. Turner, read to the Board Nov. 19, 1867,	pp. 72—83
B. Article showing past changes in the Version,	pp. 84—89
C. Review of the Majority Report,	pp. 90—98
D. Report of Dr. Blayney (1789),	pp. 99—102
E. Reply to recent statements of Dr. Brigham,	pp. 103—112

## NOTE, TO THE PUBLIC.

---

THE undersigned, members of the late Committee on Versions of the American Bible Society, have caused the following documents to be printed, for the more ready and convenient use of those who may have occasion to refer to them, now or hereafter. Some of them have already been before the public, but in a form less compact and convenient than the present, as well as more fugitive. Several of them, and some of these among the more important of the series, have never before been printed.

It is in no contentious or litigious temper, and in no spirit of pique, that the undersigned make this publication. Having been elected, by the unsolicited and unanimous votes of the Board of Managers, to the office from which they are now discharged ; having served the Society in that office, one of them for twenty years, and all of them save one for more than ten years, at frequent sacrifice of their personal convenience ; having adopted no measure, in the course of their administration of the interests intrusted to them, without free discussion and cordial agreement ; and having had the most ample testimonials, from many quarters, of the value and importance of the work they had accomplished ; they have seen with pain the recent departure by the Board of Managers, from principles which heretofore have been recognized and established in the usage of the Society, as proper and wise.

They regard the new principles, thus introduced, as fraught with evil and danger to the Society ; at once injurious to its future usefulness, and singularly inconsistent with its previous history. Entertaining these convictions, therefore, they feel called in duty to present the following statements and papers to the Society and the Public. And they solicit for them the candid attention, and the careful consideration, of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth.

If any thing herein contained shall give pain to any, they can only disavow fully, at the outset, the intention of injuring the feelings of any one to whom reference is made in the following papers. If any thing herein contained shall tend to enlighten the minds of any, on these great questions which concern all lovers of the American Bible Society, and of that revered and consecrated version which this Society was organized to distribute, they can only render hearty thanks to Him who makes the humblest means effective by His might.

To preserve the common English translation of His Holy Word in its integrity, and to make its sacred "apples of gold" shine out more brightly through "pictures of silver," has been their only aim and hope, in their labors as a committee. And to His service they dedicate this, as all their other works and words.

(Signed,) EDWARD ROBINSON.  
 SAMUEL H. TURNER.  
 THOMAS COCK.  
 THOMAS E. VERMILYE.  
 JAMES FLOY.  
 R. S. STORRS, JR.



## STATEMENT

OF THE

WORK PERFORMED BY THE COMMITTEE ON VERSIONS, IN PREPARING  
THE REVISED STANDARD EDITION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.

---

The matter of preparing a Standard Edition of the Holy Scriptures in English, of the version in common use, was assigned by the Board of Managers to the Committee on Versions in October, 1847. It was taken in hand by the committee in February, 1848; and was thereafter diligently and patiently prosecuted by them, until May, 1851, when they made their final and full Report to the Board, and to the Society, of what they had done. This Report, having been unanimously adopted by the Board, was published at the time, and has been republished since, and widely distributed. In order, however, to present a clear view at the outset of the work which the committee performed, and which was at that time so heartily accepted and approved by the Board, such parts of the Report (of 1851) as have a bearing upon this are here republished.

### SPECIMENS OF VARIATIONS.

The Committee deem it important, in this connection, to lay before the Board some specimens of the variations and discrepancies in respect to which they have been called to decide, and of the changes which they have seen fit to adopt both in the Text and its Accessories. The Board and all other persons will thus be in a situation to judge of the manner in which the Committee have fulfilled their work; and of the degree of confidence which may properly be felt in the results.

## I. IN THE TEXT.

It will be apparent from an inspection of the rules above given, that the great and leading object of the Committee has everywhere been *uniformity*. It is only where the British copies differ, that any question has been raised; except in a few instances to be noted in the sequel. It has been the wish and endeavor of the Committee, to see the English Version restored, so far as possible, to its original purity; saving the necessary changes of orthography and other like variations, which would assuredly be acceptable to the translators themselves, were they living at the present day. The Committee have had no authority and no desire to go behind the translators; nor in any respect to touch the original version of the text; unless in cases of evident inadvertence or inconsistency, open and manifest to all.

**WORDS.** Here, on the very threshold, we light upon an inconsistency in respect to the gender of a pronoun in the edition of 1611, which all the modern editions have only made worse. Thus in Ruth 3, 15, all the present copies read: "and she went into the city;" but the Hebrew and the translators have it: "and he went into the city." Again, in Cant. 2, 7, all the present copies read: "nor awake *my* love, till he please;" but the Hebrew and the translators: "till she please." Yet in Cant. 3, 5, and 8, 4, where the Hebrew is precisely the same, the translators and all the copies have: "till he please." All these instances have of course been corrected according to the Hebrew.

Another change of a word occurs in Josh. 19, 2; where the recent copies read: "and Sheba;" but the translators have: "or Sheba." Here the Hebrew may in itself be taken either way; but the number of thirteen cities specified in v. 6, requires "or."

In Matt. 12, 41, which reads in all the copies: "shall rise up in judgment," the Committee have not hesitated to insert the definite article: "in the judgment." This is required by the Greek; and the same Greek phrase, in v. 42, is so rendered by the translators, and is so read in all the copies.

**ORTHOGRAPHY.** The Committee entertain a reverence for the antique forms of words and orthography in the Bible, where they do not conflict with a clear understanding of the sense. Indeed, it is such forms, in a measure, which impart an air of dignity and venerableness to our version. For this reason, phrases like: "hoised up the mainsail," Acts 27, 40; also words like "graff" and "graffed," Rom. 11, 17, 19, 23, 24; have not been altered. But when these forms have become obsolete and unintelligible; or have already been changed in some places and not in others; or where in themselves they are of no importance; there seems to be no valid reason for longer retaining them. By far the greater portion of the readers of the English Bible are unlearned per-

\* & c., in the six copies collated. The article is found inserted, however, in quite a number of early editions.

sons and children; and it is essential to remove every thing in the mere form, which may become to any a stumbling-block in the way of the right and prompt understanding of God's holy Word. \* \* \* \* \*

In expressing the *Plurals* of such Hebrew words as are not rendered in the text, the translators adopted the plural form of the Hebrew in *-im*, but with the superfluous addition of an *s*; as *cherubims*, *seraphims*, *Nethinims*, *Anakims*, etc. This is strictly wrong, and is not in accordance with present usage. The *s* has therefore everywhere been dropped in such words; as Gen. 3, 24. Is. 6, 2. 6. etc.

**PROPER NAMES.** There exists in the Old Testament a very considerable diversity in the mode of writing Hebrew proper names in English. Thus the names of the first seven patriarchs of the world, as they appear in Gen. ch. 4, and as they are now usually written, are: Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch. But in 1 Chr. 1, 1 *sq.* the same are recorded as: Adam, Sheth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Henoch; the Hebrew forms being in both places precisely the same. This is but a single specimen; and shows at least an inadvertence on the part of the translators. In some instances, also, there is a slight difference even in the Hebrew forms themselves in different books. In cases like the preceding, involving as they do a difference of pronunciation, the Committees have not felt themselves authorized to introduce any change; regarding the great principle of uniformity in the copies as of higher importance.

In the New Testament the case is somewhat different. Here it is to be regretted, that, in respect to persons *already known in the Old Testament*, the translators did not retain their names in the form in which they had thus become familiar. Instead of this, they have often introduced the personages of ancient Jewish history under names modified, and sometimes disguised, by transmission through the Greek tongue. Thus in Acts 7, 45, and Heb. 4, 8, we find the name *Jesus*, which the common reader will naturally refer only to the Saviour; while in reality it is simply the Greek form for *Joshua*, and should properly have been so written. In the same way the name *Core*, in Jude 11, is unintelligible to most readers; for comparatively few would ever suspect its identity with the *Korah* of the Old Testament. So, too, the translators have sometimes taken the form of the Greek genitive *Juda*, *Jona*, to represent the Hebrew names *Judah*, *Jonah*.

The principle adopted in such cases has been the following: When such names occur singly in the narrative, and there would arise no marked difference in the pronunciation, the form in the Old Testament has been restored. The name *Jesus*, as above cited, is explained in the margin by the translators themselves.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CAPITAL LETTERS.** The ninth rule provides for the manner of writing the