PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL; DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON REVISION

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AMERICAN BIBLE REVISION COMMITTEE

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL; DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON REVISION

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DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

F THE

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

ENGLISH COMMITTEE ON REVISION.

[We present, by way of introduction, the following "Authoritative Exposition of the History and Purpose of Revision," which appeared in the London "Times" (weekly edition), May 20, 1881.]

THE REVISION OF THE AUTHORISED VERSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.*

On a December day, 346 years ago, the members of the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury were engaged on the same subject which will this day come before that ancient body-the faithful rendering of the Holy Scriptures into the vulgar tongue. They then unanimously agreed that the King should vouchsafe to decree that the Scriptures should be translated "by some honest and learned men to be nominated by the King, and to be delivered to the people according to their learning." As we know, no immediate results followed this very laudable resolution. The King, however, two years afterwards, made a proclamation in which, while he stoutly forbade the public reading of the Scriptures in English, he did, nevertheless. graciously allow "such as can and will read in the English tongue" to do so "quietly and reverently," and "by themselves secretly, at all times and places convenient for their own instruction." The Archbishop, too, appears to have done his best. Cranmer is said to have sent portions of Tyndale's Testament to several bishops to be reviewed and considered, and it is said that all returned their revisions. But there the matter ended. The subject, indeed, was revived in 1542, but in a reactionary spirit, and in the sequel with an equally unproductive result.

The Convocation of Canterbury of our own day have, however, been more fortunate. They have not only suggested that a faithful

^{* &}quot;The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," translated out of the Greek; being the Version set forth A.D. 1611, compared with ancient authorities, and revised A.D. 1881. Printed for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford: 1881.