

**THE REVISION OF THE
ENGLISH VERSION OF
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

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The revision of the English version of the Holy Scriptures by Philip Schaff

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PHILIP SCHAFF

**THE REVISION OF THE
ENGLISH VERSION OF
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

THE REVISION
OF THE
ENGLISH VERSION
OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

BY CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEES OF
BRITISH AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS
OF DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS.

BY
PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D.,
PROFESSOR IN THE UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW YORK,
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN REVISION COMMITTEE.



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P R E F A C E.

THE following essay is intended to bring the subject of an Anglo-American Bible Revision in its present theoretical and practical aspect before the American public. It was prepared as an introduction to three larger essays of distinguished English divines on the same subject, which have been republished in one volume by Messrs. Harper & Brothers, with the consent and latest improvements of the authors.* It is now separately printed by order and for the use of the American Committee of Revisers.

The American Committee of Revisers, which is in active co-operation with the British Committee, was permanently organized in New York, October 4, 1872, by the election of officers, as required by the Constitution (see p. xviii.), and has been steadily at work ever since.

The Committee is divided, like the British Committee, into two Companies, the one for the revision of the Old Testament, the other for the revision of the New. Both Companies hold monthly meetings in the *Bible House*, New York, for joint deliberation and for separate work. They receive from time to time confidential copies of the provisional revision of the British Committee as it progresses, and send their revision to England. Official assurance has been received that the American suggestions and alterations are found to be of great value, and have been nearly all adopted by the British Committee. Should any differences remain, they may easily be adjusted by mutual conference. The work is very difficult and laborious, and will occupy a number of years; but possibly some portions of the revised Ver-

* The Revision of the English Version of the New Testament. By J. B. LIGHTFOOT, D.D., Canon of St. Paul's, and Hulsean Professor of Divinity, Cambridge; RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin; C. J. ELLICOTT, D.D., Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. With an Introduction by PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York.

sion may be published before the whole is completed. The two Committees hope to produce a revision which will satisfy the demands of honest and conscientious scholarship, and yet read like the old book, with all the charms of its admirable idiom and vocabulary, and the sacred associations of ages which cluster around it.

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CONTENTS.

Trench, Kilicott, and Lightfoot on Revision	Page vii
The British Revision Committee	ix
Rules of the British Committee	x
American Co-operation	xv
List of American Revisers	xvi
First Meeting of the American Revisers	xvii
Constitution	xviii
Character of the English Version—the Work proposed	xx
Improvements:	
The Text	xxiv
Errors	xxx
Inaccuracies	xxxiv
Inconsistencies	xxxix
Archaisms	xlil
Proper Names	xlii
Accessories	xlv
Arrangement	xlii
Conclusion	xlviii

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

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, conservativé 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