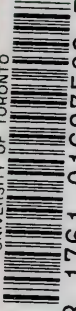


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AN APOLOGY FOR THE
SEPTUAGINT.

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AN APOLOGY FOR THE SEPTUAGINT,

IN WHICH ITS CLAIMS TO BIBLICAL
AND CANONICAL AUTHORITY ARE
BRIEFLY STATED AND
VINDICATED.

BY E. W. GRINFIELD, M.A.

EDITOR OF THE HELLENISTIC GREEK
TESTAMENT.



LONDON:

WILLIAM PICKERING.

1850.

~~Handwritten text, possibly a signature or scribble, crossed out with a diagonal line.~~

6



PRIMA et omnium antiquissima est nobilis illa LXX Seniorum (Versio), ex Hebræo in Græcum sermonem traducta, sub Ptolemæo Philadelpho, annis ante Christum 277. Quæ, non sine speciali Dei Providentiâ facta est in linguam omnium latissimè per orbem propagatam: ut, ante ortum Solis Justitiæ, quasi Prodromus, orbem tenebris immersum aliquo modo illustraret; et viam pararet pro adventu Salvatoris, qui, pulsus errorum tenebris, omnes gentes radiis Evangelii illuminavit.

Walton. Proleg. v. § 4.

Hoc tempore, quò tanta auctoritas LXX. Interpp. erat attributa, vixit Christus ipse, Apostoli, Apostolorum successores. Apostoli, qui et Hebraicè et Græcè loqui noverant, cùm Græcè scriberent hâc interpretatione usi sunt. Successores Apostolorum et suppres, qui Græcè tantùm loquebantur, solâ hâc versione utebantur; qui Latinè, hujus Latinâ interpretatione. Hujus auctoritate freti, Hellenistas et Σεβομένους ad Christianam fidem convertebant. S. Barnabas, opinor, ut et S. Paulus, et Hebræo et Græco Codice utebatur; S. autem Clemens, hujus discipulus, Græco tantùm, cujus Versionis plurimas pericopas una nobis Epistola conservavit. Reliqui Græci Patres Latinique Græcâ solâ utebantur, aut ejus Versione Latinâ.

Grabii Proleg. tom. ii. § 19.



INTRODUCTION.

THIS "Apology" may be regarded as a natural sequel to my Hellenistic Edition of the Greek Testament. Whilst acting as an editor, I felt it my duty, to abstain strictly from all general and argumentative reasoning. Trusting solely to the value and amount of the copious materials compiled from the LXX. I never presumed to interpose any comments or observations of my own. Whatever of comment or illustration may be found in that Edition, is always stated in the words and language of others.

But the time has arrived, when I may venture to break silence, and give vent to thoughts, which have been long brooding. After such a long and continuous study of the Septuagint, it was natural, that I should have come to some clear and definite conclusion, concerning its Scriptural and Canonical authority. It was not a conclusion formed hastily, nor did it result

from any previous conviction of its universal reception in the primitive Church. It crept on from chapter to chapter, and from year to year. It grew up with thousands, and tens of thousands of incidental resemblances. I gradually ascertained, that, almost every quotation in the New Testament, was either literally, or substantially, taken from the LXX. that it was perpetually present to the minds of the Evangelists and Apostles, nay, that, where I had least expected to find it, the Apocalypse, even there, it constituted the entire staple of thought and expression.

The inevitable inference I could not avoid,—that the authenticity of the New Testament is bound up with the authenticity of this Greek version of the Old—that it stands pledged, not only for its general truth and historic authenticity, but, for its Scriptural and canonical authority.

The New Testament, I felt, was not to be treated, in this respect, like any merely human record. As the immediate offspring of the Divine Spirit, it claims to be so far inspired in its language, as to admit of no material mistake, or error. By its continual appeal to the Greek version of the LXX. it necessarily raises that version, to its own standard. To cite from an uninspired version, thus frequently and statedly,

would be to forfeit and annul its own claim to plenary Inspiration.

This conviction was so impressed on my mind, that, even had no supplementary evidence arisen, I should have felt it my duty to have laid the result before the public. But, meeting with some recent publications on the Canon, in which, this position was not only controverted, but treated as if it were monstrous and incredible; I was led to take a calm review of all the ecclesiastical facts, belonging to the history of the LXX.—The result of that enquiry, I now most respectfully submit to the judgment of the Christian Church.

As the materials of this “Apology” are too miscellaneous, to admit of the usual formality of a *Table of Contents*, let me request the reader, to accept the following brief analysis of the argument:

1st. That, this Version of the Hebrew Scriptures was made between two and three centuries, before the Christian era, and that no other version existed before that era.

2nd. That, it was made at a period, when the Hebrew language had suffered much decay, when it was no longer vernacular in Palestine, and had ceased to be understood, by the Jews of “the Dispersion.”

3rd. That, this Version was made by Jews of the Dispersion, living at Alexandria, and composed in that peculiar style of Greek, in which the New Testament was subsequently written.

4th. That, it was universally received by the Hellenists, or Jews of the Dispersion, as authoritative and canonical, being publickly used in their Synagogues, both before and after the Christian era.

5th. That, Jesus was instructed from his childhood, in the knowledge of the Septuagint, the Hebrew text being altogether unknown in Galilee.

6th. That, all his disciples were Galileans and Hellenists, possessing no knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, before the miraculous gift of tongues.

7th. That, Christ and the Apostles, in their references to the Old Testament, make their principal citations in the words of the LXX. and occasionally, where it differs from the Hebrew text.

8th. That, the believing Hellenist Jews were the first converts to Christianity, and constituted the earliest members of the Christian Church.

9th. That, the unbelieving Hellenists continued to use this version, till, pressed by authorities drawn from the LXX. they made (A. D. 200—300) the Jewish versions of Aquila, Theodotion, &c.

10th. That, the whole Christian Church, during the first four centuries, received this version, as canonical, and used and read it in public worship.

11th. That, all the ancient versions of the Old Testament, with the exception of the Syriac, were made exclusively from the LXX.

12th. That, when Jerome made a Latin version from the Hebrew text (A. D. 400), which gradually superseded the Septuagintal use of the *Italic*, the change was not understood by the Church, as abrogating the previous authority of the LXX. but as combining the Original with the Version, in the Canon.

13th. That, the Hebrew language was understood by none of the Christian Fathers, save Jerome and Origen, and that its study and knowledge continued dormant in the Church, till the era of the Reformation.

14th. That, the Hebrew and Greek MSS. have suffered alike in transcription, and that no argument can be raised on that account, to debase the latter, or exalt the former.

15th. That, the Eastern and Western Church unite, in maintaining this conjoint Canon of the Old Testament; and that the Biblical authority of the LXX. has not been abrogated amongst Protestants, by any authoritative decision.

Coroll. I. That, the Scriptural authority of the Septuagint is attested by the ancient Jewish Church, and by the writers of the New Testament.

Coroll. II. That, to deny this authority, is to depart from the Canon of the primitive Church, and thereby, to invalidate our appeals to the Fathers of the three first centuries.

Coroll. III. That, to deny this authority, is to endanger the critical study of the Old Testament, and to impair the plenary Inspiration of the New.

Coroll. IV. That, the Church of England demands no such denial, adhering to the primitive Church, by retaining the LXX. version of the Psalms in her Liturgy and Prayer Book.*

At the close, will be found an Appendix, containing the principal authorities, on which this “Apology” is founded; with such miscellaneous matter, as could not conveniently be introduced into the general statement.

* A deeply interesting question is now pending, which would seem either to confirm, or invalidate, this assertion. Should the Legislature decide, on legalizing the marriage of a deceased wife’s sister, with her late husband, it will annul the Vatican LXX. Deut. xxvii. 23, ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ τῆς ἀδελφῆς τῆς γυναικὸς αὐτοῦ, a text, which has hitherto influenced the whole Western Church.—But the entire passage is a gross interpolation, introduced probably by Romish Canonists, to justify the sale of matrimonial Dispensations. See *Postscript*, p. 191.



AN APOLOGY FOR THE SEPTUAGINT.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 41. this church, *read* the church.

Page 52. Peter, *read* Philip.

Page 57. Gessenius, *read* Gesenius.

Page 177. Wardworth, *read* Wordsworth.

Page 191. The statement respecting Dr. Holmes's collations requires the following modification. It was not 136, but 72 MSS. which were collated for the Pentateuch. Of these, 33 apparently omitted, and 39 admitted the interpolated passage. But the statement is so obscure, that it is difficult to arrive at the *exact* numbers.

... instances in maintaining opinions contrary to those, which were held by all the Christian Fathers, till the days of Jerome.

In all matters of faith and doctrine, as well as of discipline, a temperate appeal to the sentiments of the primitive Church of the first three centuries, has hitherto been regarded, as a fair and legitimate mode of enquiry. The value of the writings of Bull, Pearson, Grabe, Waterland, Horsley, Lardner, &c. is chiefly to be estimated by such

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AN APOLOGY FOR THE SEPTUAGINT.

THE various and conflicting opinions which have so long prevailed amongst Christians, concerning this Greek version of the ancient Scriptures, must render an enquiry into its real rank and importance, amongst the most interesting topics of Biblical investigation. As the entire phraseology of the New Testament is formed on the peculiar style of the LXX, as all our doctrinal terms are taken from its vocabulary, whilst by far the greater number of its quotations are transferred from its text; it becomes of the utmost moment to decide, whether the primitive Christians were right, or wrong, in their opinions concerning it, and whether we are warranted in maintaining opinions contrary to those, which were held by all the Christian Fathers, till the days of Jerome.

In all matters of faith and doctrine, as well as of discipline, a temperate appeal to the sentiments of the primitive Church of the first three centuries, has hitherto been regarded, as a fair and legitimate mode of enquiry. The value of the writings of Bull, Pearson, Grabe, Waterland, Horsley, Lardner, &c. is chiefly to be estimated by such

a standard. But on a matter of Scriptural and historical fact, like that of the universal reception of the Septuagint Version, the usage and authority of the primitive Church become absolute and paramount.

As a member of the Church of England, honestly attached to the Articles and Liturgy, I do not feel myself called upon to make any apology for this avowal of opinion. I have yet to learn, that I am departing from any decision, which she has made on the subject of this enquiry. Individuals in her communion have taken different sides in the argument, but these opinions do not affect her ecclesiastical authority. "In these matters," says Bishop Burnet on the sixth article, alluding to the differences between the Hebrew and the Septuagint, "our Church has made no decision, and so divines are left to a just freedom in theirs." This indeed is the lowest view which can be taken of the question.

Considering that our Church has retained the use of the Septuagintal Psalms, and that our reformers avowed and expressed a high esteem for the Fathers of the three first centuries, I think, that a strong inference may be drawn in favour of my general conclusion. Even those who may question such an appeal on points of doctrine or discipline, can scarce refuse it on a question relating to the canon of Scripture. Without resigning our belief in Divine superintendance, we cannot admit that the universal Church could have been mistaken, on such a practical and fundamental question. It follows as a plain and unavoidable inference, that if this Greek version of the Old Testament be not of Scriptural and Canonical authority,

the entire Christian Church till the days of Jerome, possessed no authentic or canonical record of the Old Testament.

To avoid this painful dilemma, we at once submit, that it is not within the jurisdiction of any national Church to reject, as uncanonical, a version of the Old Testament, which was universally acknowledged, as inspired and canonical, during the first four centuries. This Greek version was received by the immediate successors of the Apostles, on authority, which they could not hesitate to acknowledge. They had heard it preached and quoted by the Apostles — they found it more or less in every chapter of the New Testament. They knew it had been the great scaffold of building up the Christian Church, and that it had been used and received amongst the Hellenists, for nearly 300 years before the Christian era.

When 400 years had passed away, could the introduction of Jerome's Latin version from the Hebrew, destroy the acknowledged and canonical authority of that Greek version, which had hitherto been universally received as inspired? This new Latin version might plead, and justly plead, its right and authority to supersede the use of *the Italic*, or any other Latin version, which had been translated from the LXX. But how could it destroy the authority of the original, from which such versions were made? Jerome was no prophet, and he never affected to hold a prophetic office or character. He could not abrogate the usage and authority of all who had preceded him. He was in no respect, but as an Hebraist, superior to Augustine, either in learning or talent. He acted wisely and

meritoriously, in undertaking a Latin version from the Hebrew. He has deserved and received the thanks of the universal church, for thus demanding its attention and reverence to that Divine Original, from which the Septuagint itself was translated. But this Latin version, however valuable, could not invalidate the previous fact, that the Greek version had been *de facto* canonized, as the providential medium of preparing both Jews and Gentiles for their reception of the gospel; that it had been largely incorporated with the New Testament, ratified by the citations of Evangelists and Apostles, and sealed with the indelible stamp of ecclesiastical consent of four hundred years.*

Yet it should ever be remembered, that the reverence and respect which were paid by ancient Fathers to this Greek version, implied no disregard or degradation of the Hebrew archetype. They were prevented by providential arrangements, from consulting the Hebrew text. They could not read or study a language, which, for so many ages, had ceased to be vernacular. But this reverence of the version, must always have implied an equal, if not superior reverence of the original — *Ego, pro meo modulo, saith Augustine, vestigia sequor Apostolorum, qui ipsi utraque testimonia posuerunt.* They believed, that for wise and gracious purposes, this Greek version had become to the Gentiles, what the original Hebrew had been to the Jews, during the first age of the Jewish economy; and consequently, that when Jews and Gentiles were brought

* Grabe's Prolegom. tom. ii. prop. 3.

into the same fold, both the original and the version should be regarded of co-ordinate authority, and forming conjointly the Canon of the Ancient Scriptures.*

Now, this is the basis on which we propose to erect the following enquiry. Far from aiming to introduce any novelties of doctrine or opinion, we desire only to assert the same Biblical standard, as that which belonged to the universal Church, till the days of Jerome. To expel the Greek version from that rank which it held so long, in the primitive Church, is virtually to change the primitive Canon. If we proclaim, that the Canon of the Old Testament depends solely on the Hebrew text, whilst they admitted the Greek version to a conjoint alliance, we practically set up our own standard against theirs. We also declare the whole Greek Church to hold a false Canon. The Greek Church still adheres strictly to the usage of the primitive Church.

This mutilation of Canon can never be justified. The Greek Church asserts no more than what Augustine and the early Fathers maintained and believed. We are at full liberty in our public worship, to prefer the Hebrew original, to the Greek version of the Old Testament; but we have no right to denounce that version as uncanonical. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has lately dispersed 1500 copies of the LXX amongst the poor Greek Clergy in the Levant. It acted wisely and discreetly, and gave a sanction to the principle which we now advocate.

The later Canonists have thought proper to depart from

* Appendix, No. 5.

this wise and comprehensive accordance with primitive Christianity, and have thereby thrown insurmountable obstacles, in the way of any general ecclesiastical re-union between the Eastern and Western Church. It would be deplorable, if the Church of England should indirectly countenance this schism. We have hitherto been distinguished for moderation, and especially for our attachment to the ecclesiastical authority of the Fathers of the three first centuries—I trust, that we shall not be thought to differ from them on this fundamental question. But it is vain to disguise the popular feeling amongst many zealous Protestants—that the Septuagint version of the Old Testament has no longer any claim to be considered of Scriptural authority—that it is superseded by the Hebrew Text.

Whilst this essential discrepance on the Canon continues popular, I fear that unbelievers will find a plausible ground of attacking the outworks of Christianity. They will naturally object, that if we do not refer to the same scriptural record as the primitive Church, we cannot fairly appeal to her authority, on any matter relating to the doctrines or facts of the Old Testament. Nor can we, I think, consistently defend the plenary inspiration of the New Testament, if we admit that it comprises such a large portion of uninspired material. As most of its quotations are taken from the LXX, the infidel will always object, that by our own confession, both Christ and his Apostles have founded their appeals to Patriarchs and Prophets on a version, which we assert to be merely human.

Nor are we less assailable, on the same ground, to the attacks of the Romish Church. She may reasonably af-

firm, that we abjure the primitive Canon, by reducing the Greek version to the level of a translation simply human. We are at liberty, like the Romanist, to prefer the Hebrew to the LXX, in our public worship; but we are not at liberty to renounce and condemn the latter, as unscriptural or uncanonical. We are right in condemning Rome, on the subject of the Apocrypha; but we are not justified in condemning her, for her reverence and veneration of the Septuagint. She may justly reply, You not only disregard the authority of the primitive Church, but you invalidate the plenary inspiration of the New Testament. If you object to me, that I have corrupted the Canon, by the addition of Apocryphal matter, I object to you, that you have invalidated the Canon, by cutting off one of its co-ordinate members.

It is on such grounds, that we now most respectfully solicit public attention to a candid and deliberate examination of this momentous subject. Let us calmly consider, whether we are at liberty to disavow the known and acknowledged belief of all Christian antiquity; whether, as churchmen, we can consistently disregard the sanction of the primitive Church. Above all, let us reflect as Christians, whether we do not weaken and invalidate the inspiration of the New Testament, by blending it with a version of the ancient Scriptures, which we proclaim of secular and uncanonical authority.

It is painful to contrast the low estimation to which this version has now fallen, when compared with that high rank and station, which it held in the first and purest ages of Christian antiquity. The early Fathers resorted to it, as

the basis of all their scriptural interpretation. They saluted it as the *ostium* of the Gentiles. St. Chrysostom speaks of its origin, as “that rare and singular miracle by which divine truth was circulated amongst the Gentiles” (*Hom. 4, in Gen.*). St. Austin views it, as “the foundation of that immense Temple, which was afterwards to be raised for the worship of all people” (*De Doct. Christ. lib. 2. cap. 15*). But now, Professor Stuart, in an express treatise on “The Canon of the Old Testament,” scarcely deigns even to notice its existence. He never alludes to the fact, that centuries rolled away, when no other Old Testament could be studied or consulted. Even Doctor C. Wordsworth, so well known and so distinguished for his high attachment to Ecclesiastical antiquity, describes it as “a blessing turned into a bane;” and as the means employed by the Tempter, to draw off the attention of the Church from the Jewish Scriptures, by the belief of its inspiration.* “No one amongst the Moderns,” says M. Gaussen in his *Theopneustia*, p. 79, “will now contend (as was done in times past), that the Alexandrian interpreters were inspired. Would any one still venture to affirm, that this version, human even in the time of Jesus Christ, has by the mere fact of Apostolical quotations acquired a divine character, which did not previously belong to it?” He then derides the supposition, “as on a *par* with canonizing the Vulgate.” “Would it not,” adds he, “resemble the absurd infallibility of Sixtus V. who declared his edition of 1590 to be authentic? Or that of Clement

* Wordsworth On the Canon, p. 82.

VIII. his successor, who, finding the edition of Sixtus V. intolerably incorrect, suppressed it in 1592, and substituted a very different, still however, an *authentic* edition?"

Now, with all due respect to these learned and orthodox divines, I beg to be considered as protesting against this modern mutilation of the primitive Canon of the Old Testament. It can indeed be no reproach to hold the same opinions, as were universally held during the first three centuries. I repeat, that it appears subversive of all appeal to ecclesiastical antiquity, should we admit that the Church could have held an erroneous text of the Old Testament, during this long period. If the Church be "the pillar and ground of the truth," as the keeper of the Sacred records, it is impossible that she could have been mistaken on this Scriptural question. What is the value of Patristic Theology, if interpretations founded on a reverential deference to the LXX, are now discovered to have been based on uninspired authority? The Scriptural interpretations of Theophylact, of Theodoret, of Chrysostom become worse than useless, if based on a merely secular and secondary standard.

In the valuable Appendix which Dr. C. Wordsworth has affixed to his Hulsean Lectures, he adduces the authorities of a series of the most ancient Jewish and Christian writers, to verify the Protestant Canon, as distinguished from that of the Romanists, established by the Council of Trent. But, by the great majority of these ancient witnesses, the scriptural authority of the LXX is always either expressed, or implied. It is not to be supposed, that Philo or Josephus repudiated that Greek version, which they

constantly cited, and appealed to in their writings. The united testimonies of all the Fathers till the days of Jerome, are directly opposed to any such hypothesis. In citing the books of the Old Testament, they invariably combined the Greek version with the Hebrew original. This is apparent, not only from their direct acknowledgments and citations, but also, from their belief of its supernatural origin and formation.*

The same inference may also be drawn from the similar Appendix of Professor Stuart. The earliest of all the Christian writers, who has given a list of the Old Testament books, is Melito (A. D. 170). He gives their names in the Septuagintal titles. It will apply also to the lists of Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory Nazianzen, &c. &c.

If then we set aside the authority of these Canonists on the subject of the Greek version, it may be reasonably questioned, whether we do not subvert their authority on the subject of the Apocrypha. If Tertullian, Cyril, Hilary, or Augustine could have been mistaken in their belief, that the Septuagint was of divine and scriptural authority; how can we rely on their judgment or jurisdiction, when they distinguish the Apocryphal books from the Canonical?

But before we enter on this important enquiry, I feel it my duty to declare, that I have no desire to awaken any controversy, concerning the relative importance of the Hebrew original, and the Septuagint version. All such comparisons appear to me fundamentally *Unscriptural*. It

* Appendix No. 5.

is my object, not to contrast, but to combine; not to lower the Hebrew, but to raise the Septuagint. The caution of Jesus respecting the conjugal union may be reasonably applied to the object of our argument. The whole value of the version must depend necessarily on the truth and authenticity of the archetype. To raise up any dispute concerning their relative importance, were only to stir up "vain jangling, and oppositions of science falsely so called."

Yet, in defence of every caution it will be urged, — The Septuagint is only a *version*, and therefore can never be esteemed of the same rank and value, as an original. Such is the popular objection, but is not this begging the question at issue? Whenever a version is made by the same authority as the original, it surely becomes of equal force and authority. Thus it is with our own Articles; the Latin and the English are both of equivalent authority. If the original Syro-Chaldaic of St. Matthew's Gospel had been now extant (admitting that hypothesis), it would not have been superior to the present Greek version. Or if we had the Hebrew archetype of the "Jewish Wars" of Josephus, it would not be of higher value than our present Greek translation.

Indeed it deserves the serious consideration of every Biblical critic, whether, if this objection be deemed valid against the inspiration of the Septuagint, it may not also be adduced against the plenary inspiration of the four Evangelists, and the greater portion of the New Testament. It is now generally acknowledged, that we have not the original words of Jesus or his disciples, recorded

in the language in which they were spoken. It is scarcely credible that the poor woman, who came out of the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, could have uttered her cries and lamentations in *Greek*. She spoke the native language of her country. It was Syro-Phœnician or Syro-Chaldaic, and the same mixed language, with some variety of dialect, prevailed at that time over Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. There seems the highest probability that most of our Saviour's conversation with the Scribes and Pharisees, and that all his addresses to the common people, were spoken in this vernacular tongue. But, when it was subsequently ordered that the New Testament should be composed in Hellenistic Greek, they were enabled by that divine power which we term Inspiration, to convert this provincial and transient dialect into its present fixed and enduring form.

Now this kind of Inspiration seems closely analogous, though of a higher grade, to that which the early Fathers attributed to the translators of the Septuagint. The first were enabled to translate, without any important error, the exact meaning of Syro-Chaldaic words into their present Greek form. The other were enabled to translate their native Hebrew into expressions, which should hereafter be received and accommodated to the Greek of the New Testament. We should ever speak with much reserve and humility on this mysterious subject. But, as far as our conceptions can reach, it would appear that the kind of supernatural aid was in some measure similar, and that the circumstances of both may be brought to illustrate and explain each other.

Much of the discredit, which attaches to the Septuagint,

simply on account of its being a *version*, would be instantly removed by considering, that in no other way than as a canonical version of the Hebrew, could it have brought about the great objects, for which it was ordained. The Hellenistic Jews, when they ceased to be able to read their native Hebrew, could not have been addressed in any other manner. It was only by a *version* of their ancient scriptures, that they could retain a knowledge of the promises made to their ancestors. And why should that version be deemed of inferior authority, if it was designed not only for their personal benefit, but to carry forward the ulterior purposes of the Christian dispensation? Why should the version be deemed inferior to the original, when the original itself, without that version, would have been utterly unintelligible, and thus incompetent to bring about the final purposes of the Jewish economy?

The force of this reasoning will be at once apparent, if we suppose for a moment, that the Septuagint had never existed. The Hebrew language would then have ceased to be vernacular several hundred years before the Christian era; but no Greek version could have aided to supply its place. In that case, the Jews would have wandered far and wide over the east and west; but they would have had no Scriptures to remind them of their patriarchs and prophets. It must have all depended on unwritten traditions, and on dubious historical reminiscences. In the fulness of time, the era of Christianity would have arrived; but where would have been the people, awaiting its advent, and prepared to welcome its tidings?

The Gospel is preached in Judæa by Christ and the

Evangelists in the native dialect, and various references are made to Moses and the prophets, to prove that "the Great Prophet had come into the world." But how were they to verify these allegations, when they could not consult the Hebrew text? The Apostles travel into Asia Minor, and Greece, and they publish the same tidings in the Greek tongue. But who are to be their hearers? The Jews?—they had no intelligible Scriptures in their hands. The Gentiles—to whom such Hebrew-Greek, on this hypothesis, would have been equally unintelligible?

The New Testament is subsequently composed in this peculiar Greek, with all its references to the Old Testament exclusively directed to the Hebrew. Who is there able to read and interpret it?—The Syro-Chaldaic dialect passes away, or is confined to the knowledge of a few; how then are the tidings of the Gospel to be proclaimed to the heathen world?

Versions no doubt, after a while, would be made of the Old Testament, both Greek and Latin, but of what authority would they be, either to Christians, or to unbelievers? Being made subsequently to the coming of Christ, they could not be adduced, as any evidences of his Divine Mission; and as taken from a language, which none but the Jews understood, their fidelity must have entirely depended on such translators as Aquila or Theodosion.—But it is useless to pursue the supposition.—It is evident, that by the sole want of the Septuagint, the entire progress of Christianity would have been arrested, and all its evidences obscured and darkened.

Nor is the value and importance of this version to be

tested by that of any other, whether ancient or modern. Others are national, confined to time and place, and adapted to the language and circumstances of some particular people. But the version of the LXX has influenced all other versions, from the *Italic* of the first century, down to the latest attempt to carry the tidings of the Gospel to some barbarous tribe. By its Psalter, it has furnished the instrument of praise and thanksgiving to every people. Even the versions which profess to differ from it, when examined, will be found to bear witness to its value. The Vulgate is perpetually illuminated by its lustre; and our English translation could never have attained its comparative perfection, if it had not continually been aided by its interpretations. The single fact, that the LXX version was anterior to the Christian era, and previous to the existence of the New Testament, places it in a distinct category, and makes it, as it were, an original, as well as a version. To borrow an illustration from the language of the Feudal system, the LXX version holds its fief *in capite*, immediately from the Hebrew; whereas all other versions are held under it, and possess only subordinate and servile tenures.

But if the objection against the Septuagint, *that it is a version*, be pushed to its full extent, it will also apply to that entire system of Providential mediation, which forms one of the main pillars and supports of "The Analogy" of Butler. The aid and assistance which we daily derive from each other, is only a constant exemplification of the same all-pervading principle. The greater part of our knowledge comes to us from secondary instruments, and

for one, who studies an original, multitudes are indebted to a version.

The fallacy of supposing that we can gain a more accurate knowledge of the Scriptures, from the exclusive study of the Hebrew, than from a collation of the Hebrew with the LXX, is so monstrous, that it scarcely deserves an answer. Who that knows anything of the difficulties and obscurities of the Hebrew text, is not rejoiced to lay hold of assistance, like that provided by the Alexandrian version? To insist on the exclusive inspiration of the Hebrew text, is to insist on that of which no man can form any conception, *as it relates to himself*. Is doubt, or difficulty, or uncertainty, Inspiration?

This version of the Hebrew Scriptures has been providentially held out for our assistance—It comes to us recommended by its own origin and antiquity—by its use amongst the Jews 250 years before the Christian era—by its adoption in the Church, for 400 years after it,—and by its continual citation in the New Testament. You say, *It is but a version*. Is this any objection to its being of sacred and divine authority? May not interpreters be inspired, as well as Prophets? Was not the miraculous gift of “the interpretation of tongues” (1 Cor. xii. 10), an exemplification of this species of Inspiration? To attempt to debase the Septuagint on account of its being a *version*, is to impugn the whole system of Providential intercourse, and to throw contempt on every argument of Divine mediation. If Infidels employ such objections, Christians, at least, should abstain from them.

But it should also be considered, whether the fact, that

it was by means of this version the Gentiles were prepared for the advent of Christ, and for the reception of the Gospel, be not indicative of the corresponding fact, that it is by means of versions of the Scriptures, that the knowledge of Christianity has been published amongst all nations? Since the manifold wisdom of God (*ἡ πολυποίκιλος σοφία τοῦ Θεοῦ*) has seen fit to render the progress of divine knowledge dependant on Biblical versions, it cannot be objected that he chose the version of the LXX, as the prototype and pattern of all succeeding translations of the Scriptures, thereby dignifying and consecrating their office to the end of the world.

Above all, the example of Christ himself should be remembered — He humbled himself, as a child, to learn his knowledge of the Scriptures from this Greek version, and as “he grew in stature and in grace,” he became daily more conversant with its sacred phraseology.* How contentedly may the poor, in all ages of the Church, rely on the instruction to be gained from versions of the Bible, when even Jesus himself was taught to read from the LXX, and when he continued to use that version, in most of his appeals to Moses and the Prophets! Or, to touch on an example more within our reach,—who can doubt, whether knowledge the most profound, and faith the most firm, and love the most pure and ardent may not be attained from a Biblical version, when Augustine could study no other Bible, than that which is embodied in the theme of this Apology?

* Appendix, No. 17.

The question at issue, therefore, cannot be determined by the bare fact, that the one is the original and the other the version. It must be decided by all the historical circumstances and events attending both the original, and the version. Unless we can show from sacred and profane history, that the Hebrew Canon required this alliance of the Greek version, as its support and assistant, our argument will necessarily fall to the ground. We are willing to admit, that nothing but the exigency of the case, and its overwhelming importance, can justify the prerogative which we claim for the Septuagint.

But, whilst we willingly make this admission, it is only just that the reader should divest himself of all prejudice, and enter on this enquiry with that candour and impartiality, which its importance demands. We therefore request his attention to the following scriptural facts.

First, that about 700 before the Christian era, the ten tribes of Israel were carried captive into Assyria and Media, from whence they never returned to their native land. "Then the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only." 2 Kings xvii. 18. The King of Assyria sent colonies to take possession of Samaria, and the remnant of the Israelites became incorporated with these foreigners, and acquired their language.

Secondly, that about a century after the destruction of Israel, we may date the commencement of the Babylonish Captivity. "And the Lord said, I will remove Judah out of my sight, as I have removed Israel." 2 Kings xxiii. 27. After 70 years, they were permitted to return,

in number about 50,000. They found their land had lain desolate. They had lost the use of their native Hebrew, and acquired the language of their masters.

Thirdly, that Ezra applied himself diligently some time after their return A. C. 460, to correct the canon of the Scriptures. During this long captivity they were in much danger of losing the knowledge of that canon, nay even the original record. He succeeded however, in restoring their public worship to something like its original purity. But the fact to be kept in view is this—the pure and Biblical Hebrew was no longer vernacular, it was not even intelligible to the people at large, without Syriac Targums. Hence the canonical books, after the Captivity, are considerably mixed with Syriac and Chaldee.—The Scripture history closes about the year A. C. 430.

For our knowledge of Jewish history, during the next 130 years, we must consult Josephus and the Apocryphal books. About the year A. C. 330, Alexander the Great peaceably entered Jerusalem. He soon after built Alexandria. There he placed many Jews, to whom he granted numerous privileges and immunities. It was about this period, the Jews of the Dispersion began to *hellenize*, i. e. to adopt the Greek language, and to become conversant with Grecian manners and opinions.

From this brief sketch, it will appear, not only that the pure and genuine Hebrew of the Ancient Scriptures had ceased to be vernacular, but that everything, which had hitherto kept the Jews a separate and distinct people, was fast passing away, and dissolving into the more general purposes of the Christian dispensation.

It was during this critical period of the Jewish polity, (A.C. 250-280) that it seemed good to Almighty Wisdom, to bring about the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Jewish or Hellenistic Greek.* The Alexandrian Jews besought Ptolemy to send for authentic MSS. from Jerusalem, and every motive of policy, of ambition, and of literary renown conspired to render him favourable to their request. The language of our own Bible translators on this subject is so beautiful and appropriate, that I shall need no apology for the following extract from their Preface :

“ While God would be known only in Jacob, and have His Name great in Israel, and in none other place ; while the dew lay on Gideon’s fleece only, and all the earth besides was dry ; then, for one and the same people, which spake all of them the language of Canaan, that is, Hebrew, one and the same original in Hebrew, was sufficient. But, when the fulness of time drew near, that the Sun of Righteousness, the Son of God, should come into the world, whom God ordained to be a reconciliation through faith in His blood, not of the Jew only but also of the Greek, yea of all them that were scattered abroad ; then lo, it pleased the Lord to stir up the spirit of a Greek prince (Greek for descent and language), even of Ptolemy Philadelphus, King of Egypt, to procure the translating of the Book of God out of Hebrew into Greek. This is the translation of the Seventy interpreters, commonly so called, which prepared the way for our Saviour among

* Appendix, No. 1.

the Gentiles, by written preaching; as St. John the Baptist did among the Jews, by vocal. For the Grecians, being desirous of learning, were not wont to suffer books of worth to lie moulding in kings' libraries, but had many of their servants, ready scribes, to copy them out, and so they were dispersed and made common. Again, the Greek tongue was well known and made familiar to most inhabitants in Asia, by reason of the conquests that there the Grecians had made; as also by the Colonies, which thither they had sent. For the same causes also, it was well understood in many places of Europe, yea, and of Africa too. Therefore, the Word of God, being set forth in Greek, becometh hereby like a candle set upon a candlestick, which giveth light to all that are in the house; or, like a proclamation sounded forth in the market place, which most men presently take knowledge of; and therefore that language was fitted to contain the Scriptures, both for the first preachers of the Gospel to appeal unto for witness, and for the learners also of those times to make search and trial by."

Such are the wise and deliberate opinions of our excellent translators, and though they proceed in some degree to qualify them, by reciting the opinions of Jerome; yet they allow quite as much as could be expected from Protestant translators, avowedly professing to follow the Hebrew text.

It is unnecessary to enter into any minute account of the circumstances attending this Greek translation. As to the narrative of Aristeas, it is now generally supposed the forgery of some Hellenistic Jews, who were desirous

of magnifying the reputation of this version in the eyes of their Palestine brethren. But, when every deduction has been made for what is fabulous, it leaves deep conviction, that this translation came abroad with some strong marks and attestations of its providential origin, and that it was received with profound veneration, by those for whose advantage it was more immediately designed.*

Whilst then we are ready to concede, that the history of Aristeas is not to be received without much suspicion, we infer, that even as a counterfeit, it betokens some portion of latent truth, and that it evinces the full conviction of the Hellenistic Jews and of the early Fathers, that this version was made under the superintendance of an extraordinary Providence. Nor is it easy to account for the concurrent testimonies of Aristobulus, Philo, and Josephus to the main facts of Aristeas, but on the supposition that this belief was generally prevalent and widely disseminated. They thought it highly credible, that as the "Lord had stirred up the spirit of Cyrus" to rebuild the Temple; so, in the language of our translators, "he had stirred up the spirit of Ptolemy" to bring about this translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Believing this, they could not doubt that the same Divine aid was granted to the translators, to enable them to carry that object into effect. This Providential interference, they thought was fully justified by the urgency of the crisis. The Hebrew language had already ceased to be vernacular. It was becoming less and less understood, even by the Jews of Palestine; whilst it was totally

* Appendix No. 14.

obsolete amongst the Jews of the Dispersion. It was of the utmost importance, that its peculiar idioms should be embalmed in the great literary and commercial language of the world; especially as it was designed, that this language should be subsequently adopted as the literary vehicle of the New Testament.

The situation of Alexandria was also admirably adapted for carrying out these Providential designs. It was the port of Egypt which communicated with all the shores of the Mediterranean, and had commercial intercourse with nearly all those nations, who are mentioned as sending up deputies to Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost. What then could be more worthy of Almighty wisdom, than to select such Hellenistic Jews, to become the translators of Moses and the Prophets, on behalf of themselves and of all the nations of the earth? What more conducive to the advent of Christianity? what more confirmatory of its evidence to the end of time, than to make Jewish Elders the heralds of the Messiah, and Jewish interpreters the Commentators to the Gentiles?

Such were the Egyptian Jews of Alexandria, who had mingled largely with the Macedonian armies, and whose descendants formed a considerable portion of the commercial population. It was to attach these colonists to his throne and government, that Ptolemy Philadelphus encouraged a design which, under Providence, was intended for the subsequent benefit of the universal Church to the end of the world.

The court of Ptolemy was distinguished for its patronage of learning and elegant literature. Alexandria could

boast of one of the largest libraries. The names of Demetrius Phalereus, Lycophron, Theocritus, Aratus, Nicander, Apollonius, Callimachus, and several other distinguished writers, were amongst the ornaments and cotemporaries of this celebrated era.

The style and phraseology of the Jewish translation corresponded to that, which is now understood by the term *Hellenistic*.* Whilst considerably influenced by what is peculiar to Macedonic Greek, it has blended also the Alexandrian terminations with those Hebraic forms, which could not fail largely to enter into any version of the Scriptures made by Jews entertaining the highest veneration of the original text.† It is probable that their first labours were confined to the Pentateuch, and that it was not till twenty or thirty years subsequently, that the whole of the Old Testament was completed. We may therefore state in general terms, that it was finished A. C. 250.

The most remarkable and important feature of this version consists in its regular selection of the same doctrinal words and expressions, as those, which were subsequently adopted by the Evangelists and Apostles. The terms Repentance, Faith, Righteousness, Justification, Redemption, Sanctification, &c. together with the titles of Lord, Christ, Saviour, Holy Spirit, &c. are the very same in the Alexandrian version, as in the New Testament, *and they are used precisely in the same meaning*. It is this identity

* Appendix, No. 16.

† See the two learned Sermons of Bp. Maltby preached before the University of Durham. London, 1843.

of doctrinal terms and expressions, which constitutes the unity, and which secures the continuity of faith and doctrine, in the Old and the New Testament.*

Now, without divine Inspiration acting on their minds, it is scarcely possible, that Alexandrian translators should have uniformly chosen such doctrinal terms and expressions, as were subsequently adopted by the Holy Spirit, for the ends and objects of the Christian Covenant.† It suggests something more than human to behold Jews of Egypt, above two centuries before the birth of the Redeemer, making use of the exact language and terminology, which is peculiar to the New Testament. It is not enough to reply, they had the Hebrew original before them, and therefore they naturally expressed themselves in Hebraic Greek. We are not now discussing the mere grammatical idioms of the Greek version, but its constant, undeviating doctrinal phraseology.‡ Merely human translators will always more or less vary their interpretation even of the same words in the original. They will sometimes give a more forcible, at others, a more lax and gentle expression to the same thought. But in this sacred version, at least in its doctrinal and prophetic department, we have the same *usus et norma loquendi* which we find everywhere adopted in the New Testament, without which, no written Revelation of God to man, could retain the same precise and permanent signification, amidst every subsequent variety of language.

To test the force of this observation, let any one take

* Appendix No. 13.

† Appendix, No. 15.

‡ See Stuart on the Canon, p. 315.

up the Latin version of Castellio, or the English New Testament of Harwood, and he will be at once convinced, not only that the dignity of manner, but the accuracy and precision of thought are altogether sacrificed. When Patriarchs and Prophets are represented as acting and conversing in the ordinary style of the world, our religious feelings are shocked and offended. But this, it may be said, is a matter of taste and sensibility. Let us then consider the far more serious consequences attached to the truths and discoveries of a Divine Revelation. Would the doctrines of Redemption, Faith, Repentance, Righteousness, Sanctification, or Justification continue of the same weight and import, if lowered down to expressions, which do not convey the same distinct meaning? Can the doctrines peculiar to Christianity, be preached or explained by a vocabulary merely secular? Is not the unity and permanence of our faith, associated with the unity and permanence of our doctrinal phraseology?

Hence it has been wisely and providentially ordered, that every ancient version of the Old Testament, with the single exception of the Syriac, should have been formed on the basis of the Greek Septuagint—that the writings, quotations and interpretations of the early Fathers should correspond to it.—Even now, no modern version can be made, either of the Old or New Testament, which is not mainly indebted for its doctrinal phraseology, to this archetype version.

The ground of this assertion may be thus briefly verified. Previous to Jerome's Latin translation from the Hebrew, there existed the *Italic* version from the LXX,

which was generally read and received by the Western Church. This version as a whole has unfortunately perished, except in the Psalms—but there it remains with only occasional corrections. Now, in this *Italic* version of the Psalms we have the same doctrinal expressions, which we find adopted in the New Testament, as we may learn from our own Prayer Book translation.

But this argument may be still further developed from remembering, that Jerome did not venture upon any fresh version of the New Testament. He left the *Italic*, with only some occasional corrections. Now, the *Italic* of the New, must have corresponded to the *Italic* of the Old Testament—they constituted one version. The inference is plain and undeniable—that Jerome, in his Latin version of the Old Testament from the Hebrew, must have adopted the doctrinal phraseology of this previous *Italic*, from the LXX. This reasoning is verified also, by the remains which we find of the *Italic*, in the writings and quotations of the Fathers.

In this statement I am supported by the testimony and authority, even of those who disparage the LXX to exalt the Hebrew text. Spearman was a professed, unflinching disciple of Hutchinson,* and he composed his “Letters on the Septuagint” with the express aim and object of depreciating its value and authority. He makes the following striking acknowledgment: “Had there not been a translation of the Old Testament into Greek before this time, I do not see how they could have wrote the

* See Appendix, No. 3.

New Testament, in Greek; for as they must have used Greek words, in a different sense from what they were used in Greek authors, there could have been no standard by which to have tried them, had not the LXX version been made.—I think I am justified in saying, that, if there had not been a translation in Greek of the Old Testament, made and received by sufficient authority, a proper time before the advent of our Saviour, I do not see how the penmen of the New could have written in Greek;—which is saying as much as any of the admirers of the LXX translation can say of it, without the glaring absurdity of giving it the preference above the original Hebrew.” p. 430. As we have no wish or desire to give any such preference, and disclaiming all such unnatural and absurd comparisons, we are heartily content with this most honourable and candid confession.

Let us now revert to the thread of our narrative. The Septuagint Version, being made 250 years before the Christian era, became by means of the Hellenistic Jews, the main instrument of preparing the Gentiles for the advent of the Messiah. It was publicly read in their Synagogues, and dispersed as they were over every part of the East,* there grew up a general expectation from the predictions of the Old Testament, that some remarkable personage would appear about the time of the nativity of Jesus. This is acknowledged, even by profane historians, such as Tacitus and Suetonius. But, it is still more evident, from the mighty and rapid progress of

* See Hody, p. 224, &c.

Christianity amongst the Hellenistic Jews and their numerous proselytes, when the Gospel was first published. It is not too much to assert, that, during the first century, these Hellenistic Jews and their Gentile Proselytes, formed the principal seedplot of the Christian Church. Whilst Scribes and Pharisees, who adhered rigidly to the use of the Hebrew ritual and the Hebrew tongue in their public worship, were disputing and cavilling at the person of Christ, and the truth of the gospel [*See Matt. xvi. 1-3. Mark iii. 22. vii. 1, 7.*], these Jews of the Dispersion and these Gentile Proselytes joyfully listened to the preaching of Jesus and the Apostles. [*Matt. xvi. 9. Mark xvii. 37.*] They gladly embraced those promises and doctrines, which they had more obscurely anticipated through their previous reading of the Septuagint.

If the Hebrew language had always maintained its original power and prerogative, it may be questioned, how far the gracious design of making the Gentiles fellow-heirs of the promises given to the Patriarchs, could have been carried into effect. The ancient Hebrew was strictly suited to a theocracy, to the privileges of a separate and exclusive people, set apart from all other nations of the earth. Without supposing the Jewish power and polity to have extended more or less over all countries, it does not appear, how the Hebrew Scriptures could have influenced the faith and manners of the Pagan world. The decline and fall of the Hebrew tongue in the Jewish and Christian Church is tacitly assumed in the reasoning of the Apostle, concerning the grafting of the Gentiles on the stock of Israel. The pride of the Jew, as

the lineal descendant of Abraham, could never have been broken down, if he had retained the language and speech of Abraham. The hope of the Gentile could never have been realised, if he had been compelled to read the Old Testament in its original language. It was needful to bring both Jews and Gentiles to one common focus. It was necessary to employ a common medium for a common end. It is no degradation of the Hebrew, to have been made subservient to the purposes of the gospel, through the Greek version. It is the glory alike of the Hebrew and the Septuagint, to have found their consummation in the New Testament.

But to effect this object, and for ever to place this version on a parity with the original, it seemed good to Divine Wisdom, that the founder of Christianity should be born and educated in a part of Palestine, where no knowledge of Hebrew had existed for many hundred years, and where the Hellenistic Greek had been prevalent, from the time of the Ptolemies. In the Synagogues of Galilee, it is incredible that they used the Hebrew Scriptures, when even at Jerusalem they were explained by Syriac Targums. It is against all probability, that either Joseph or Mary could read the Hebrew text. When Jesus went into the Synagogue at Nazareth, he opened the book and read the passage almost *verbatim* as we now find in the LXX; had he read it in the Hebrew, not a single individual could have comprehended its meaning — and it could not “have been fulfilled in their ears.” Out of the thirty-seven quotations made by Jesus himself from the Old Testament, thirty-three agree

almost *verbatim* with the LXX, two agree with the Hebrew, and differ from the LXX, one differs from both, and one agrees partially with both. Only six agree exactly with the Hebrew. From this enumeration, it is plain, that our Lord constantly used and quoted the version.*

Galilee, according to common repute, was the Bœotia of Palestine,—“Out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.” The provincial dialect was of the most rustic kind, but from the time of the Maccabees there had been a large body of Hellenistic Jews and Proselytes, mixed with the Gentile inhabitants. During the thirty years which our blessed Lord had passed in Galilee before his ministry, he had become most intimately conversant with the Greek version, and this knowledge he evinced in all his teaching, both in his own country and in Judæa.

From the popular prejudice to magnify the Hebrew and to degrade the LXX, this important fact has been passed over in silence. I am at a loss to mention a single writer, who dwells on the indisputable fact, that the Hebrew Scriptures were neither read nor understood by the Galileans, and that if Jesus was instructed by his parents in the knowledge of the Scriptures, they must have instructed him out of the Septuagint version.

His disciples were all Galileans, “they were unlearned and ignorant men” (Acts iv. 13), and till the day of Pentecost, not one of them could read the Hebrew

* See the analysis of these quotations in *The Journal of Prophecy*, October, 1849, and the extract, Appendix, No. 17.

text. But they were well read in the Septuagint, and they quote it on every occasion. I think there are not less than twenty-eight distinct quotations from that version, in Stephen's speech before the Jewish Council.*

Of all the apostles, St. Paul was the only one who had received a regular and learned education. Born and educated at Tarsus, he there acquired a profound knowledge of Hellenistic Greek, and when he went to Jerusalem, to finish his studies "at the feet of Gamaliel," he no doubt became thoroughly conversant with the Hebrew Scriptures. But, though a "Hebrew of the Hebrews," he seldom refers to the Hebrew text, and he delights to quote the version. Charmed by the example of Jesus, he forgets the Pharisee, and becomes the Hellenist. The eloquence of Paul, as Valckenaer has remarked, is quite of another kind from that of the Greek orators. He disclaims all enticing words of man's wisdom. His vocabulary is chiefly confined to the LXX, and those who would comprehend his arguments or appreciate his excellence, must give their days and nights to the study of the Septuagint.

In accounting for the rapid progress of Christianity during the first century, sufficient justice has not been paid to the mighty effect produced on the minds of the early converts, when they heard the Apostles discoursing in the very words and language of this Greek version of the Old Testament. It must for ever justify and explain the wisdom of God, "in stirring the heart of Ptolemy," and

* Appendix, No. 2.

directing the minds, hearts and hands of these Jewish translators, when we behold the sublime and beneficial purpose, to which this version became subservient, as the great channel for the propagation of Christianity. The power of miracles would itself have passed away, had it not been sustained by the enduring and endearing form of the Gospel, thus preached and recorded in Septuagintal language. It came home to their business and bosoms, when they heard Jesus, and the Evangelists and Apostles, reiterating the testimonies of their own Patriarchs and Prophets in the very words and syllables, in which they had been accustomed to read them in private, or to hear them in their Synagogues. We are often told of the "indirect accommodations" of this version, and of its being "sufficiently good for their purpose."—But it was evidently made and designed for that purpose. We are told that the Apostles did not intend to sanction and authorize its authority, by thus continually preaching and quoting it. But no man can read the New Testament and credit such assertions. *Its sound hath gone out into all lands, and its words even to the ends of the world.*

There is one observation which deserves especial attention. It will be remembered there are several arguments of our Saviour and his Apostles, in their citations from the Old Testament, which depend on the force and meaning of a single word. These passages are adduced by M. Gaussen to prove the *verbal* Inspiration of the New Testament. But they will equally prove the Inspiration of the Septuagint, for they are each and all literally taken

from that version. I shall exhibit them *seriatim*, in the words of M. Gaussen.*

“In the first place, turn to Heb. ii. 8, and observe how, after having quoted ‘Thou hast put all things under his feet,’ the sacred writers reason on this word *all* (πάντα, LXX). Ps. viii. 4-6.”

“In the eleventh verse of the same chapter, in quoting from the twenty-second Psalm, he dwells upon the expression, ‘my brethren,’ (τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου. Ps. xxi. 22. LXX,) to exhibit from it the human nature which the Son of God assumed.”

“Observe in chap. xii. 27, in quoting the Prophet Haggai, he reasons upon the use of the word *once*—‘Yet once more.’” (ἔτι ἄπαξ, ii. 7, LXX.)

“From ver. 5 to 9 of the same chapter, remark how he enlarges on the expression, ‘My Son,’ from chap. iii. 11, 12 of Proverbs, (υἱε μὴ ὀλιγώρει παιδείας Κυρίου, κ. τ. λ. LXX) ‘My son, disregard not the chastening of the Lord.’”

“In chap. x. 5-7. quoting Psalm xl, he dwells on the expression, ‘Lo I come,’ as meeting ‘Thou wouldest not.’ (ἰδοὺ ἤκω—οὐκ ἠθέλησας, LXX Ps. xxxix. 6, 7.)

“In chap. viii. from ver. 8 to 13, quoting Jer. xxxi. 31, he reasons upon the word *new*. (LXX, Jer. xxxviii. 31, 32, διαθήσομαι—διαθήκην καινὴν.)

“In chap. iii. from v. 7 to 19, and in chap. iv, from ver. 1 to 11, with what earnestness, quoting Ps. xcv, does he rest on the word ‘to-day,’ the expression, ‘I have sworn,’ and especially on ‘my rest,’ introducing as a com-

* *Theopneustia*, chap. vi. sect. v.

mentary the words from Genesis, ‘And God did rest from his labours.’” Every one of these expressions is taken *verbatim* from the LXX, Ps. xciv. 7-11. Gen. ii. 3.

“From verse 2 to 6 of chap. iii, observe how he dwells on the words *servant* and *house*, taken from the book of Numbers (chap. xii. 7), ‘My servant Moses, who is faithful in all his house’” (LXX ὁ θεράπων μου Μωυσῆς, ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ οἴκῳ μου πιστός ἐστι).

“But especially remark in chap. v. 6, vi. 13, 14, and vii. 21, the use he consecutively makes of all the words of the cx. Psalm, (LXX, cix. 4.) ‘The Lord swear,’ ‘He swear by himself,’ ‘Thou art a priest,’ ‘A priest for ever,’ ‘of Melchisedec, king of Zedec,’ and of ‘Melchisedec, king of Salem.’” Every one of these expressions, (except “king of *Zedec*,” which is not in the Epistle) is taken from the LXX. Conf. Gen. xiv. 18.

It would have been only fair in M. Gaussen, to have stated them as *Septuagintal* quotations. But if so, how could he have justified his derision of the sentiments of the primitive Church? See pp. 8, 9.—Should the reader desire to see multitudes of similar quotations, he may find them arranged in the *Citata*, appended to my Hellenistic Greek Testament.

Perhaps the most important doctrinal term in the New Testament, illustrated by the LXX, is Κύριος, when used as denoting the proper divinity of Jesus. The Greek translators were probably led to the version of Κύριος, for יהוה, from the Jewish scruples respecting the τετραγράμματος. But this solution does not affect our position—that we learn this peculiar use of the word from the LXX,

and that, without their authority, we should scarcely have been able to ascertain the full force of such passages in the New Testament.

Now this rendering of Κύριος, for Jehovah, not only pervades our own translation, which professes to be derived from the Hebrew; but it is found in the Vulgate of Jerome, in the Syriac, and in all the ancient versions of the Old and New Testament. It rests however exclusively on the authority of the LXX, corroborated by the New Testament.—The inference is plain and undeniable. It may be stated in the words of St. Austin, when replying to the assertion of Jerome, that the Greek translators were interpreters, but not Prophets—“*Spiritus, qui in Prophetis erat, quando illa dixerunt; idem ipse erat in LXX viris, quando illa interpretati sunt.*” De Civitat. Dei, lib. xviii. cap. 43.*

The practical truth of this inference may be still further elucidated, by the following criterion.—It was by the constant use of the Septuagint version, that all the ante-Nicene Fathers arrived at the sublime truth so amply exhibited by Bp. Bull, that the Son of God is consubstantial with the Father, that all the manifestations of the Divinity in the Old Testament, were the manifestations of Jesus Christ, in a pre-existent state. This doctrine they chiefly derived from inferring, that the Κύριος ὁ Θεός of the LXX, was the Κύριος καὶ Χριστός of the Evangelists and Apostles. This sublime and Evangelical doctrine is now much obscured. There are many, who consider the

* Appendix, No. 5.

Jehovah of the Old Testament, as quite distinct from the *Κύριος* of the New. We are willing, that the Inspiration and Scriptural authority of the LXX be tested by this standard of sound doctrine.* The early Fathers believed, that when Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM," he appealed to this divine mystery — that when he affirmed "Abraham rejoiced to see my day, he saw it, and was glad," he intimated the same truth.—We have now lost, by our neglect of the LXX version, the plain and Scriptural method of arriving at the same conclusion.

We need not then be surprised, that the primitive Church received this translation as canonical, when they found it thus acknowledged and recognized by Jesus and the Apostles. The number of direct quotations from the Old Testament in the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles may be estimated, I think, at about 350, of which, not more than 50 materially differ from the LXX.† But the indirect verbal allusions would swell the number to a far greater amount. Though there be not a single professed quotation in the Apocalypse, it teems with verbal references in every chapter. The memories of the writers of the New Testament, or rather the suggestions of that Divine Spirit who superintended them—seem to have brooded over all their words and expressions, till they thought and spake the very language of the LXX.

For the strict and literal truth of these assertions, I must refer to the pages of the Hellenistic Greek Testa-

* Appendix, No. 13.

† Appendix, No. 2.

ment; but for the force of the general argument. I may appeal to any man's honest convictions. We behold the Saviour of the world, resting his claims to the Messiaship, on the express words and declaration of this Greek translation. We hear his Evangelists reiterating the same assertion from the same authority. We listen to his Apostles explaining and illustrating the doctrine and evidence of Christianity by numerous passages literally extracted from this version, and yet we hesitate to admit its inspiration! By some, we are told they only took it as they found it; by others, that only so much as they cited is inspired, but nothing more.—Is not this “juggling and paltering with us in a double sense?” What should we think of any claimant to an estate, who relied on one part of an ancient record, and who denied the value of the rest? If Jesus founds his claim to Divinity on the term *Κετοσ*, and if that word be peculiar to the LXX. as equivalent to *יְהוָה*, or Jehovah, is not this canonizing and consecrating the language of the LXX?—“*Quis est Κετοσ*,” asks Bp. Pearson. “*pro Domino Deo, accipiendum putaret, nisi ita Seniores locuti sunt, quibus Κετοσ est יְהוָה*,” Præf. Parænet. See “*Exposition of the Creed*,” Artic. 2, vol. 2.

To the Apostles succeeded the primitive Fathers, and on that account they are styled the Apostolic Fathers. Their language and thoughts are of the same Septuagintal complexion. The first Epistle of Clemens Romanus, the most authentic document of the early Church, is almost entirely composed of citations, adduced from the LXX. He quotes nearly the whole of the 53d of Isaiah, and of the 22d Psalm, § 16, of the 33d § 22, and of the 51st § 18.

I have examined the quotations of Barnabas, who has been reckoned an exception, and has been commonly thought to draw his Scriptural references from the Hebrew text; yet I cannot find more than three or four, which materially differ from the LXX. Indeed, from his strange blunder of confounding Cyrus with Κίραξ (Sect. 12.), it is evident, that he could not have understood a word of Hebrew.*

The same remark will also apply to Justin Martyr, from his absurd etymology of Israel, *nomen hoc Israel, significat homo vincens virtutem: isra enim homo est, et autem virtus!* See Hody, p. 281. The quotations of Justin form the only exception amongst the early Fathers, of any considerable deviation from the text of the LXX. This, I think, may be accounted for, from his originally being a Samaritan. He appears also to have trusted very much to his memory, and occasionally, to have inclined towards the version of Aquila. In his Dialogue with Trypho, he charges the Jews with having wilfully corrupted their Scriptures. Hody is of opinion, that this charge was solely brought against the LXX; but his expressions seem rather to relate to the Hebrew text. By assenting to the extraordinary accounts of Aristeas, respecting the composition of the Greek version, it is plain, that he asserted its joint inspiration with the original. He sharply reprehends some who questioned its authority. Οἱ τοῖς τολμῶσι λέγουσι τὰς ἱερὰς γραφὰς ἢ ἱεραρχοῦσιν οἱ Ἑβραίωνες πρῶτον, παρα Πτολεμαῖον τῷ τῷ Αἴγυπτίου βασιλεῖ γινόμενοι, μὴ εἶναι ἐν τισὶ ἀλλήν. *Audaciam Judaeorum sui*

* Græbii Prolog. tom. II. cap. I. § 19.

temporis notat, qui putarunt eam versionem in aliquibus veritatem non attigisse. Grabii Prolog. tom. 2, cap. 1, § 20.

Irenæus may be adduced, as the next of the Fathers, who expressly acknowledges his belief in the Inspiration of the Septuagint. He attests the entire account of Aristeas, and expressly affirms, that the Evangelists and Apostles chiefly confided on the authority of this version. “*Et enim Petrus, et Joannes, et Matthæus, et Paulus, et reliqui deinceps, et horum sectatores, prophetica omnia ita annuntiaverunt, quemadmodum Seniorum Interpretatio continet. Unus est idem Spiritus Dei, qui in Prophetis quidem præconavit, quis et qualis esset adventus Domini, in Senioribus autem interpretatus est bene,*” &c. Adv. Hæres. cap. 25. Edit. Lutet. 1639.

Clement of Alexandria in his *Stromata*, lib. 1, speaks in the most decided manner, respecting the Inspiration of the LXX. He terms it “the work of the Holy Spirit,” and gives his full attestation to the history of Aristeas.

Tertullian in his Apology, cap xviii, commemorates this version and the circumstances attending it, in a way, which can leave no question of his opinion concerning its divine authority.—See also Chrysost. Orat. 1, cap. 6, cont. Judæos.

Hippolytus usually expounds the Scriptures according to the text and sentiments of the LXX.

Ambrose in his Commentary on Psal. cxviii. 13, expressly asserts, *LXX virorum sententias magis sequitur Ecclesia.* Cf. Walton, Prolog. ix. sect. 56.

Hilary expressly asserts that the LXX were enabled

to transfer into their version all the hidden mysteries of the original text. Tract. in Psalm. and Cyril of Jerusalem directly asserts their Inspiration.*

Eusebius (Hist. Eccles. lib. v. c. 8) gives a compendious narrative of the whole transaction relating to the Alexandrian version, from Irenæus; and then adds his own assent to the general testimony of his predecessors.

Even Jerome occasionally forgets his prejudices, and joins in the general acclamation of this version. *Jure LXX Editio obtinuit in Ecclesiis, vel, quia prima est, et ante Christi adventum facta; vel, quia ab Apostolis (in quibus tamen ab Hebræico non discrepat) usurpata.* Epist. 57. 11, ad Pammach. p. 314. Edit. Vallars.

The limitation, which he here mentions, is known to be altogether erroneous. There are several passages in which Christ and the Apostles adhere to the LXX, even when it distinctly varies from the original.†

From these and similar testimonies, we may clearly infer, that the Fathers of this Church, till the days of Jerome, were unanimous in their belief of the Scriptural authority and Inspiration of the Greek version. They considered it, in conjunction with the original, as forming the united canon of the Old Testament.

It must be allowed, that Hody in his elaborate and excellent work, argues very ably against this conclusion, and labours to show that there had always been a decided

* Οὐ γὰρ εὐρεσιλογία, καὶ κατασκευὴ σοφισμάτων ἀνθρωπίνων ἦν τὸ γινόμενον, ἀλλ' ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου ἢ τῷ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι λαληθεισῶν θεῶν γραφῶν ἐρμηνεῖα συνετελεῖτο. Catech. ix. cap. 34.

† Appendix, No. 5.

preference of the Hebrew original. But as far as I can judge, he has failed in establishing any such preference, till after the time of Jerome. He was naturally led to take this ground. He was arguing against the opposite extreme of Morinus. It was the natural tendency of Protestants to dispute every point against Romanists. But Hody was a moderate, learned, and sound divine, and I have little doubt, that he would have admitted of a compromise between the contending parties. He would not probably have been indisposed to return to the sentiments of the primitive Church,—viz. that the Hebrew original and the Greek version are to be received as constituting conjointly, the canon of the Old Testament. Indeed, nearly all the early authorities which he has collected, would have naturally led to this comprehensive conclusion.

The work of Hody, it should be remembered, was expressly composed to qualify the assertions of some distinguished Romanists, who in opposition to the Protestant Reformers, had the audacity to exalt the LXX, to the disparagement of the Hebrew text. He went forth as a professed antagonist to their extreme opinions, and successfully confuted their errors. He proved his point, that the Hebrew text must ever challenge the right of an original. But in proving this proposition, like most other advocates, he went somewhat beyond the truth, and rashly threw out insinuations against the co-ordinate value and authority of the LXX. I would respectfully submit, that Walton, rather than either Hody or Usher, pronounced the correct and orthodox decision. To hold the middle course be-

tween extreme Romanists and extreme Protestants, neither to debase the LXX, nor to exalt the Hebrew, this is to maintain the canon of the primitive Church, apart from all the controversies of succeeding ages.

Before we proceed, it may be proper to advert to two important writers, who stand in a class of their own. Philo and Josephus, though they can scarcely be reckoned either amongst ecclesiastical or classic authors, are both held in high estimation, as bearing a direct and independent evidence to the truth and authenticity of the Jewish Scriptures. It has been matter of controversy, whether Josephus appeals chiefly to the Hebrew text, or to that of the LXX. As far as I can judge, he seems to rely equally on both, and to attribute to both a divine authority. He relates the history of the LXX, without mentioning the fable of the cells.* In this omission, he was preceded by Philo, who is unquestionably the most important of all authorities (saving that of the N. T.), in attesting the value and authenticity of the LXX. Surprising as it may sound, his quotations, inclusive of repetitions, are about 2300, of which about 1500 may be reckoned as separate and independent passages. He very seldom deviates from the exact words of the LXX, and I think generally agrees with our present text, according to the Vatican. There is probably no other instance of such a multitude of citations, from any volume, contained in the same compass. The New Testament, considering its relative size, may be esteemed however as almost its rival, in the number of Septuagintal

* See Stuart On the Canon, p. 209. London, 1849.

citations and allusions. They amount, as we have before stated to about 350, of which, about 300 belong substantially to the LXX; but its incidental coincidences of thought and language are almost indefinite. Since the publication of my *Scholia* (1848), I have collected several hundred additional examples.

We have now arrived at that important epoch (390—400), when Jerome published his Latin version, translated immediately from the Hebrew. Previously there had existed many Latin versions by private individuals; but only one, the *Italic*, was publicly read and recognised by the church. It was made probably in the Apostolic age, or very soon afterwards, and was a strict and literal translation of the LXX. This ancient version is now unfortunately lost, except fragments cited by the early Fathers, which are incorporated by Nobilius in his Latin version of the Septuagint.

The Book of Psalms forms a singular exception.—Such was the veneration of the laity for their own favourite manual of devotion, that it was not deemed advisable to set forth any new translation. Our own Prayer-Book version represents the Septuagintal *Italic*, with some occasional corrections, in a few striking deviations from the Hebrew. Whoever compares the Bible version with that in the Prayer-book, will at once perceive the difference. In the great majority of instances, the New Testament literally adopts the LXX in its citation of the Psalms, and occasionally even when they differ from the Hebrew.*

* See Brett On the Versions, p. 135. Appendix, No. ix.

There is one example of this kind, which is too remarkable to be overlooked. It occurs *Ps. xvii. 17, They pierced my hands and my feet.* Now, if Jerome or our own translators had here followed the Hebrew text, they would not only have obscured a plain prophecy, and darkened two important passages in the New Testament (*John xix. 3, Apoc. i. 7*); but they would have introduced words, which are altogether devoid of meaning.

It may be safely affirmed indeed of Jerome's Latin version, that it never could have been accomplished, without the previous assistance of the LXX. The Jews, from whom he acquired his knowledge of Hebrew, would have been neither willing nor able, to instruct him in the more obscure parts of the ancient prophets. It was the peculiar phraseology of the LXX, illustrated by the corresponding terms of the New Testament, which enabled this illustrious man to exhibit the Vulgate in its present form. This is evident from the existing remains of the *Italic*.

It may be reasonably questioned, whether Jerome's direct knowledge either of Hebrew or Greek, was more than barely respectable. The numerous errors of which he has been convicted by Bp. Pearson,* Grabe, and Le Clerc, prove that it was not profound. He deserves however the utmost gratitude of the Church, for undertaking this laborious and indispensable work. The Vulgate, with all its imperfections, forms a noble monument of his learning and piety.

Had he been content to have prosecuted this object,

* Præfat. Parænetic. Appendix viii.

without any derogation of that version, which had hitherto been the sole guide of the church, it is probable that neither Augustine nor Ruffinus would have risen up to oppose him. But, with many virtues, he was a man of strong and vehement passions. He had acquired that knowledge of Hebrew, which none of his brethren, except Origen, possessed. In his correspondence with Austin, he shows himself sufficiently elated by this superiority. But what is far less defensible, he often changes his ground. Sometimes he professes the highest regard for the LXX; at others, he speaks of them with contempt: now, he professes only to amend their version, and now, he decries it as utterly corrupt and depraved. He endeavours to recommend his own labours, not so much on account of their utility, as because it was a *point of honor*, that the Latin church should possess a version made immediately from the Hebrew!*

But these are only the pardonable failings of a great and good man, nor should I have thought of alluding to them, if his character had not been recently depicted in a strain of eloquent panegyric, which might seem to justify his depreciation of the Greek version.† It would have been far more happy for the church, and not less creditable to himself, if Jerome had prosecuted his own object, without any disparagement of the Septuagint; if he had uniformly acknowledged its imperishable claims

* Appendix No. v. Du Pin's Life of Jerome, and Gregory's History of the Septuagint. Lond. 1664.

† See Dr. C. Wordsworth's Lectures on the Canon, pp. 82-85.

to canonical authority, and had endeavoured to harmonize the version with the original, instead of delighting to place them at variance.

Such was the wish and desire of Augustine, in his remonstrances with the bold innovating spirit of Jerome. He did not deny the value and importance of Jerome's undertaking; but he felt alarmed for the peace, harmony, and honour of the church. He thought that the term, *Hebræica veritas*, which Jerome was perpetually repeating, was a gratuitous insult on that version, which had been incorporated by Christ and the Apostles in their sacred writings, and which had been so long prized and venerated by the Christian Church.

Should it be admitted, that one single Father could overturn the authority of all who had preceded him, and that the sanction and usage of the Christian Church during the first three centuries, could be annihilated by the sole power of Jerome, then it would be in vain to plead that authority, on any other occasion. We then set at nought a standard, which has been so often appealed to, not only in matters of church-government, but in the most important facts and doctrines of Christianity. In that case, the noble Defence of the Nicene Creed by Bp. Bull would be shorn of all its influence, and the labours of Horsley against Priestley would cease to be valid. Or, to allude to a more recent work, which has obtained much and deserved celebrity, even the exquisite learning of *Theophilus Anglicanus* would lose half its value, if the authority of the early Fathers could be thus wantonly impeached.

It would appear, that for some time, the *Italic* and Jerome's version were both in public use. Gregory the Great, who lived in the following century, says that he occasionally used both translations. By degrees however, Jerome's became the favourite, except in the Psalms. It is much to be lamented, that the use of Jerome's version, was not accompanied with any permanent study of the Hebrew language, amongst the ancient Christians. With the solitary exception of Origen, there is no evidence, that any of the Greek or Latin Fathers could consult the original text of the Old Testament.

This is an important fact, and it demands the attention of every Christian student. Had the knowledge of Hebrew in the primitive Church been deemed of that supreme and exclusive value, which has since been ascribed to it, surely many of the Greek and Latin Fathers might have prosecuted that study. The *Hexapla* of Origen held out a strong incentive for this pursuit, and by the aid of Jews, the means were always at hand for entering on these labours. Such men, as Ambrose, Synesius and Cyprian would easily have mastered all its grammatical difficulties.

The fact remains clear and indubitable, that the Hebrew was not the study of the succeeding Fathers, and that, amidst all their controversies, they could not appeal to that text of the Old Testament, which is now represented amongst Protestants, as the sole Inspired and canonical standard of the Ancient Scriptures.

Hence, they must have relied entirely on Jerome's Latin version, had not the Septuagint still maintained its rank

amongst the more studious and learned members of the Church. The adoption of Jerome's version in public worship, could never supersede, with such men, the love and study of the LXX. Accordingly we find, that even in the Western Church, it was read and studied, till the northern barbarians sacked Rome and literature. Amongst the *Novellæ* of Justinian* (circ. A. D. 550), there is one, sanctioning and recognizing the use of the LXX amongst the Hellenistic Jews in their worship, in opposition to those who were exclusively attached to the Hebrew text. In the Greek Church, its use and authority have always been upheld, as co-ordinate with their veneration of the Hebrew archetype.

Nor was the authority of this version ever called in question, even amongst the unconverted Jews, till they were so pressed by its Scriptural interpretations, that they were compelled to take refuge in new Greek versions, by which, the prophetic language of the Old Testament was obscured in reference to Jesus, as the Messiah and the Son of God. Such were the versions of Aquila, Symmachus, and Theodotion, composed under the reigns of Adrian, Commodus and Severus. But the influence of the Septuagint, as is remarked by our own translators, still remained superior to that of all others, and was used by many of the Jews in their Synagogues, even to the latest period of the Roman Empire.†

It should also be remembered, that if we deny the

* *Novell.* 146. *Walton.* *Proleg.* ix. sect. 15.

† See *Grabe's Prolegom.* tom. ii. prop. v, vi. *Hody,* lib. iii. part. i. cap. i. pp. 232-237.

Scriptural authority of the LXX, we invalidate the authority of all the versions, which are still read in the Eastern Churches, except those which use the *ancient Syriac*. Even they have a more modern version, taken from the LXX. In that case, the Armenian, Ethiopic; and Coptic versions are of no Scriptural authority, for they were unquestionably made from the LXX. If we conjoin to these the large body of Christians, which adhere to the Greek Church, we shall be shocked to find, that we have dismantled well nigh one half of ancient and modern Christendom.

During the long night of the middle ages, the Latin Vulgate remained the sole directory of the Western Church, and as Latin was little understood even by the clergy, the laity possessed few means of reading the Scriptures. But when the Reformation took place, and learning began to revive, it was not long ere some of the early Reformers betook themselves to the study of the Hebrew. This they accomplished like Jerome and Origen, by the aid of Jews. Then, alas! arose afresh the unhappy and unnatural controversy, respecting the comparative merits of the Hebrew and the Septuagint.

Strange as it may appear, the Romanist took part with the Septuagint, though he canonized the Vulgate; whilst the Protestant took part with the Hebrew, though he denounced the version of Jerome. The opposition amongst Protestants was heightened by an imprudent intermixture of Apocryphal with Canonical books in Jerome's translation, though he placed certain obelistic marks to intimate their inferiority.

It is probable, that Jerome made this unfortunate arrangement to meet the prior arrangement of the *Italic*. But he would have acted more wisely and consistently, if he had inserted no Apocryphal books, in the Hebrew Canon. Had this been the case, it is possible that we might have escaped our disputes with the Romanists, concerning the Apocrypha. The circumstance of its being intermingled with the Canonical books in the Septuagint, was altogether accidental, and had no good authority to plead in its favour. Neither Philo, Josephus, nor Melito mention any such spurious additions.

The same assertion may be made of the other previous lists of Canonical books, by Athanasius (A. D. 326), by Cyril of Jerusalem (A. D. 350), by the Council of Laodicea (A. D. 360), by Gregory Nazianzen (A. D. 370). The distinction between Canonical books and deuterocanonical, was unfortunate, but it cannot be charged on the LXX. It was recognised, if not invented by Jerome, yet the blame has fallen as much on the Septuagint, as on the Vulgate.

But when the dispute had once commenced, the animosities of both parties were inflamed. In this contest, all moderation was sacrificed. The usage and authority of the primitive Church were forgotten, and that version of the Old Testament, which had been read in Jewish Synagogues 250 years before the birth of Christ, and 400 years after,—which had been the means of preparing the world for his advent, which was appealed to by Christ and his Apostles—the text of the primitive Fathers, the glory of confessors, the consolation of Martyrs, was now

banished from its alliance with the Hebrew archetype, and reproached as a version, based entirely on human authority.

It is in this unnatural state of repudiation and divorce-ment from the primitive canon, that I would most earnestly and respectfully plead for the ancient rank and dignity of the Septuagint, as the affianced bride and associate of the Ancient Scriptures. If age, if services, if authorities are of value, I shall not plead in vain. We plead for the restoration of past honours, for the acknowledgment of present benefits, and for the recognition of Divine sanctions. The early Church could not have received this Greek version, as inspired, unless she had received it on Apostolic authority. She could not have admitted it, as Scripture, unless she had found it incorporated with the New Testament. The grounds of her faith were simple and sublime. She found it sanctioned by Jesus and the Apostles, nor could she hesitate to yield to their supreme authority.

Let us only consider, how the early Christians must have construed and understood the various allusions and exhortations of Jesus and his Apostles, concerning the study of the Ancient Scriptures. *Search the Scriptures*, says our Lord. Could they possibly exclude the Scriptures, as set forth in the Greek version, when that version was in far more general use, than the original Hebrew? — when they knew, that Christ and the Apostles had chiefly quoted from the LXX? Could they exclude that version, which the Ethiopian eunuch was unquestionably reading in his chariot, when he accosted Peter? When

our Lord took up the Prophet Isaiah, in the Synagogue at Nazareth, he must either have quoted immediately from the LXX, as Walton supposes;* or, it was subsequently adjusted to that version, by the authority and suggestion of the Holy Spirit. Conf. *Luke iv.* 18, 19. *Esa. lvi.* 1, 2. LXX.

Again; St. Paul asserts in his Second Epistle to Timothy, iii. 16, *that all Scripture is given by the Inspiration of God.* Now it is clear, that he must have here alluded *primarily* to the Greek version of the Old Testament, because Timothy's mother and grandmother, who had instructed him *in those Scriptures, which were able to make him wise unto salvation,* were Hellenistic converts. *Timothy was the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek, Act. xvi.* 1. They resided in Asia Minor, either at Derbe or Lystra, where the Greek language was generally spoken. It is utterly improbable, that such females could read the Hebrew text. Both their names are of Grecian origin, and as his mother was married to a Greek (Greek both by birth and religion), she had doubtless instructed him from the Greek version of the Old Testament. We should remember also, that the only two citations, which occur in these Epistles, are in the express words of the LXX. 1 *Tim. v.* 18. 2 *Tim. ii.* 19. Conf. *Scholia Hellenistica*, p. 929.

It is impossible indeed, to account for the universal reception, amongst the early Christians, of this Greek version, as inspired and canonical, but on the conviction, that they

* Prolog. ix. sect. 15.

had received it, as such, from Christ and the Apostles. The earliest dispute amongst the first believers, arose between the Jewish and Gentile converts, respecting the rite of circumcision, and the observance of the ceremonial law. But there was no dispute, concerning the Divine and Scriptural authority of the Septuagint version. The Hellenistic Jews had already been accustomed to read that version, for nearly 300 years. The Gentile converts were naturally led to its adoption, from its congeniality with the New Testament. But it never entered into the minds of either Jew or Gentile, to suppose, that this version had been quoted by Christ or the Apostles, out of mere accommodation to their *prejudices*. It remained, for modern critics to devise an hypothesis, which is not only destructive of Divine Inspiration, but subversive of fair dealing and of common honesty.

If the Evangelists or Apostles could have founded the claims of Jesus, as the Messiah, on the authority of a merely human version,—if they could have blended this human version, with their own inspired writings; where could be our confidence on their integrity, and where our trust on the authority of the New Testament? The belief of Divine Inspiration precludes all notion of craft, hypocrisy, or double dealing. It may suit partizans and special-pleaders to adduce testimonies, which they do not confide in; to make the best of an indifferent case, or to take advantage of ignorance and simplicity. But all such devices would be utterly subversive of our faith in a sacred and Divine record. For my part, I am free to confess, that I never could give credit to the Inspiration of

the New Testament, if I believed, that the greater number of its appeals to the Old Testament were expressed in uninspired and uncanonical language.*

The advantages of declaring ourselves united to the judgment of the primitive Church, are numerous and important. By declaring that we accept the Septuagint, in union with the Hebrew, as the basis of our interpretation of the Old Testament, we should lay a sure and solid ground of reconciliation with the Eastern Church. It is painful to reflect that the Church, which was the cradle of our religion, is now holding as Canonical and Scriptural that same Old Testament, which we hesitate to acknowledge of sacred authority. But it is still more distressing to reflect, that it is morally, nay as it were, physically impossible, that this primitive and Apostolic Church could adopt the Old Testament in any other form, than that of the Septuagint. The Greek Church adheres to this version, because she has received it in uninterrupted succession from the Apostles. The authority of Jerome could not affect her language and ecclesiastical traditions. We submit, that this fact is of itself sufficient, to point out the immutable and indestructible authority of this version. To suppose, that the Divine Head and Governor of the Church, would condemn the most ancient portion of his Church, to the use of false and uncanonical Scriptures, were to suppose what is incredible, nay, what is well nigh impious.

Another important benefit would arise from the far

* Appendix No. 11.

deeper study of the New Testament amongst ourselves. So long as the Greek version of the Ancient Scriptures is regarded as devoid of canonical authority, it never can be viewed, as the elect companion and interpreter of the writings of Evangelists and Apostles. There will ever be a difficulty, in bringing the study of the Old and New Testament into one focus, till we view them through the same medium of thought and expression. It is scarcely possible to estimate the advantage, which would accrue to the study of theology, if the Greek New Testament were habitually read and compared with the Septuagint. The light they would thus mutually reflect on each other, can be duly felt and appreciated only by those, who have habitually brought them into this sacred union.

To connect the study of the Old and New Testament, without the intervention of the Septuagint, is a laborious and somewhat hazardous undertaking. Unless the Hebrew be previously turned into Hellenistic Greek, it can scarcely be brought into union or contact. The reason is obvious. The Hebrew idiom is so different from that of pure and classic Greek, that, without considerable violence, it cannot be transferred into Greek phraseology. The grammatical texture of classic Greek has so little congeniality with the Hebrew or Hellenistic idiom, that Bentley was of opinion, Demosthenes himself would have been puzzled in an attempt to construe either the LXX or the New Testament. *Dissert. on Phalaris*, p. 412, edit. 1699.

Now, this obstacle is entirely removed, by collating the phraseology of the New Testament with the Old, through

the medium of the LXX. To use the language of logic, *it supplies the middle term.* We then possess an authorised and Sacred interpreter, who explains the peculiar difficulties of both. This is accomplished, not only by that Hellenistic idiom, which is common to the LXX and the New Testament, but by showing whence that idiom is derived. Its great and essential value, however, consists in ascertaining on Scriptural authority, the exact meaning of the most important doctrinal terms of the New Testament.*

Nor would the advantage be less, as regards the Hebrew text. The time was, when such men as Bp. Walton and Bp. Pearson, or as Vitringa and Carpzov could never divide the study of the LXX, from that of the Hebrew archetype. They felt there could be no safety or security in studying the original, apart from the version; that a language, which had ceased to be vernacular so long before the Christian era, demanded the concurrent aid of a translation, which has now existed for more than two thousand years. But the daring and adventurous genius of later scholars has taught them to think very lightly of such subsidiary aids. Whoever has looked into the writings of Paulus, Ewald, Eichhorn or Gessenius, will be at no loss to comprehend this difference. Now, we have the Hebrew of the Old Testament buried under endless appeals to comparatively modern oriental dialects. That small portion of Hebrew which we really possess, is stifled under loads of Arabic and Coptic, which few can read,

* Appendix No. 15.

and still fewer understand. But, we can all understand the practical result of such obscure and mazy erudition. Several of these continental Hebraists, with Mr. Norton amongst the Transatlantics, have openly avowed their disbelief of Divine inspiration. It is only the natural result of such unbounded and hazardous speculations concerning Hebrew etymologies, which when deprived of the compass and rudder of the ancient Greek translation.

There can be little doubt, that the very obscurities of Hebrew form one of its chief recommendations to men, whose favourite delight is to grapple with difficulties, and to explore what is dark, dubious and uncertain. But though this taste, within certain limits, is useful and praiseworthy, it is extremely dangerous, when indulged in excess, especially on subjects of Biblical investigation. There is small scope for invention, in matters of Biblical criticism, and the closer we adhere to Divine authority, the less likely are we to fall into human paradox.

The Septuagint comes before us, as the most ancient authorised interpretation of the Hebrew. Such an authority quenches the spirit of theory, and rebukes the love of invention. We then remain pupils and scholars, and sit patiently at the feet of the original, and the version. This is painful and humbling to human genius, but it is the best attitude of the Christian student and divine. It should not be charged, as any imperfection of the Greek version, that it keeps us, from the elation of theorists and from the pride of dogmatists. When poor mortals sit down to study the Word of God, their first and most painful lesson is to abjure the love of originality. It is their business to trans-

late, not to invent; to follow, not to lead; to copy, not to originate. The Greek version of the Old Testament, when united to the original, is admirably adapted to cherish and nurture this intellectual docility. It should be used, as the teacher of the Christian student, in his approach to the awful mysteries of the Cross. He will acquire from it far more valuable discipline, than from all the technical canons of Biblical critics.

Jesus chiefly lived and taught in Galilee, that poor, remote, outlying province of Palestine, out of which it was thought no Prophet would arise, and he resided in that despised village, of which it was wonderingly exclaimed, *Can any good come out of Nazareth?* He “assumed the form of a servant,” and was taught to read from the Greek version of the Ancient Scriptures. According to the notions of Scribes and Pharisees, he should have resided at Jerusalem, and been educated at the feet of Gamaliel. But he came to confound the wisdom of the Scribe, and to humble the pride of the Pharisee, and it was fit that he should do honour to a version, so expressly designed, for the conversion of the Gentiles. It is no dishonour to the Septuagint, that it has partaken of the scorn of human learning.

Such is the present neglect of the LXX, that Professor Stuart, in his “Critical History and Defence of the Old Testament Canon,” seldom adverts even to its existence. After a long list of citations, which he terms “Appeals of the New Testament to the Old,”* he thus sums up his conclusion:—

* Critical History of the Canon of the Old Testament. Sect. XVIII.

“Large as this list is of passages from the Old Testament, which are cited or alluded to in the New, it is far from comprehending all of this nature, which the New Testament contains. The truth is, that there is not a page, nor even a paragraph, of any considerable length, belonging to the New Testament, which does not bear the impress of the Old Testament upon it. What else is the so-called *idiom* of the Hebrew-Greek of the New Testament, but an impression of this kind? It is indeed true, that some few peculiarities in the forms and grammatical structure of the Hebrew-Greek, led in part to the bestowment of this appellation upon it. But after all, the grammatical departures from common Greek, are now known and acknowledged, to be but few; while the *lexical* ones arise mostly from the necessity of the case, (new *things* demanding either new *names*, or new meanings of old words, to designate them); or else, from the manner, in which the kindred Hebrew verbs &c. are employed in the Old Testament. In the latter case, they help to exhibit the influence, which the Old Testament has had upon the New throughout.

“No one who has had an intimate acquaintance with both Testaments, in their original languages, can possibly fail to recognize the numberless transfers of the spirit and the modes of expression, from the Old to the New. It is a thing to be *felt*, and not to be adequately described. It occurs so often, every where, and in respect to every thing, that one would not know, where to begin, or where to end such a description. No one must imagine, that the list of quotations, or cases of allusion above, conveys

to him any really adequate view of the subject. The truth is, that it is no more than the mere beginning of such a view. But it presents to every reader, whether learned or unlearned, what is palpable and undeniable, and what must serve to convince a candid mind, that the New Testament writers every where lean upon, or stand closely connected with, the writers of the Old Testament."

How excellent is this general argument! but the entire reasoning of the Professor in these plain Biblical comparisons, is founded exclusively on the *Hebrew* Scriptures, without any reference to the version of the LXX. Referring to *John x. 35*, "The Scriptures cannot be broken," he says, "Here *Scripture* stands for the whole *Hebrew* Bible," as if it did not also comprehend the Greek. Yet shortly before, he had quoted several passages, *John xix. 24*, *Marc. vii. 10*, &c, which exactly accord with the LXX. Nay, he cites that remarkable quotation, *Luke iv. 21*, in which the agreement is with the LXX, and against the Hebrew text (p. 200); yet he still speaks of the Old Testament as if it *exclusively* related to the Hebrew. With all possible deference to this learned and laborious divine, I would submit, that such an oblivion of the LXX, in matters of citation, is altogether unfair. In all passages, in which the words of the New Testament and the LXX are identical, it savours of something more than pedantry to go back to the Hebrew. It is to "be wise above what is written." It is to cast a slur on that version, which has been consecrated by Divine authority.

This exclusive predilection for the Hebrew text is, I apprehend, to be reckoned amongst the most unfortunate

and indefensible partialities of Biblical critics.* It creates a schism in the study of the Bible, for which, no learning, no talents, no industry can compensate. The Judaic element of the Old Testament is thus brought into constant and immediate opposition, with the milder features of the Christian economy, and its austere severity is imposed, even on our interpretation of the Gospel covenant. It has well nigh transformed Witsius into a Jewish lawyer. Look into the writings of Ainsworth, of Lightfoot, of Gill, and of many of the early Puritans, and you lament to perceive, that their exclusive addiction to the Hebrew text, had imparted no little tinge of Jewish prejudice, to their Christian piety. The study of the Septuagint is well calculated to soften this rigidity, by associating the language and phraseology of the New Testament, with our Old Testament lucubrations. By diminishing the distance of language, it harmonizes the difference of tone between the old and new dispensations.

* There is a remarkable instance of this Hebrew predilection in *Ps. cxlv. 13*, in which, it is almost incredible that there is not an omission in the Hebrew text. The Psalm is alphabetic, and the letter *Nun* is omitted. This is supplied in the LXX, by the word *Πιστός κ.τ.λ.* which answers to the Hebrew *נשן*. Conf. *Ps. cx. 7*. What a curious confusion amongst the versions! It is omitted by Jerome, and in our Bible and Prayer Book translations, but it is admitted by the Vulgate. This confusion has probably arisen from the repetition of the same sentiment in *v. 17*. But the Hebrew letter *נ* is there necessary to keep up the acrostic. Dr. Hammond, in his larger Paraphrase on the Psalms, has a long note, in which, he attempts to justify both the Hebrew and the LXX. But I think Grotius was right in his opinion, that it is plainly defective in the present Hebrew text. It is found in the Syriac, Arabic and Ethiopic versions.—I have alluded to it, merely as an example of the force of prejudice.

To represent the Hebrew as a more holy, more sacred language than that, in which the New Testament is recorded, is to introduce a superior reverence of the temporal to the Spiritual covenant. It is to perpetuate that Jewish feeling, which it is the natural tendency of the Septuagint to obliterate. As regards the peculiar phraseology of the New Testament, this neglect or disparagement of the LXX inflicts a still deeper wound. The Hellenistic phraseology cannot claim the beauties of classic Greek. It comes before us in a strange, grotesque, and foreign aspect. If we despise the diction of the Septuagint, we can never heartily admire or approve that of the Evangelists and Apostles. The Hebrew of the Old Testament is correct and original—the Greek Testament is barbarous, because it is Hebraic. But, “without form or comeliness,” we are bound to prize and love this version, if we love and prize the New Testament. We are bound to study it, if our Redeemer read it in his childhood, and quoted it in his manhood. Who does not pity the Christian, who would exalt the language of Moses and the Patriarchs, above that of Christ and the Apostles, who can find more pleasure in illustrating the obscurities of Hebrew etymologies, than in enjoying the simpler and plainer lessons of the despised Galileans, though recorded in Septuagintal Greek.

I am far from applying such reproaches to Mr. Stuart, either as a Christian or a critic; but I think it is impossible to doubt, that this censure will apply to a large portion of his recent work, *On the Old Testament Canon*. *In what estimation were the Hebrew Scriptures held by*

the Jews, at, and before, and soon after the commencement of the Christian era?—is the title of his fifteenth section (p. 279).—He then quotes a large number of passages from Philo, all of which, are in the express words of the LXX! He next proceeds to Josephus, of whom, he had previously allowed (p. 209), “that he usually appeals to the Septuagint version.” “And for this,” he adds, “two good reasons may be assigned; the one, that he fully believed in the miraculous rise of the Septuagint, as is shown by his account of this matter: the other, that the Romans, for whom he wrote the history, could read the LXX, but not the Hebrew Scriptures.”—Surely, if such be his admission, he ought to have taken some distinct notice of the LXX, in this account of the Jewish Canon.

It is in direct contrast to this perverse and unnatural tendency, of excluding the Greek version, even from its more immediate connection with the Greek Testament, that I have devoted many years to the prosecution of studies, which are exclusively based on Septuagintal authority. In the Hellenistic Edition of the New Testament, there are collected not less than fifty thousand examples of citations, allusions, and parallels of thought and expression, drawn from the LXX version, and from the Apocrypha. To these have been added, in the “*Scholia Hellenistica*,” at least thirty thousand fresh examples, accompanied with numerous references to Philo, Josephus, and the Apostolic Fathers. My chief aim has been to illustrate the New Testament from the pages of the LXX, and to show, that what Professor Stuart here asserts to belong exclusively to the Hebrew text, must be attributed in a far stricter sense,

to the Greek version. It is to show, that Jewish, rather than classic writers should be consulted in our theological studies.—Had I then felt the conviction, which I have avowed in this Apology, that our blessed Saviour, as a child, was instructed in this version by his parents, it would have gladdened, perhaps, improved my humble endeavours. Yet it brings unspeakable satisfaction and evidence to my mind, that I was on the right track of enquiry. The star was rising in the east, and it has now conducted to the stable at Bethlehem. And how should it be otherwise, when the first promise and prediction is couched in the Septuagintal Isaiah?—*Ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ λήψεται, καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανὴλ.*

But to return to the argument.—Mr. Stuart, it is only justice to say, has given a brief, yet valuable section (xiv), on the sameness of the Canon of the Egyptian Jews, and the Jews of Palestine. He has fully proved his point. He shows that Philo, though he invariably quotes from the LXX, has not cited a single passage from the Apocrypha, and that Josephus agrees numerically with our present Canon. It is doubtful when these Apocryphal writings became mixed with the Canonical books in the LXX MSS.; but, I think, it must have been subsequent to the Apostolic age. The Hellenists are never charged with any such spurious additions, in the New Testament; nor, as far as I can recollect, by any of the early Fathers. Had it been so, it is probable we should have found it noticed by Justin, who charges the Jews with having occasionally corrupted passages, in their Canonical Scriptures.

These Apocryphal books were composed, it is generally believed, by Alexandrian Jews, and the earliest not more than 150 years before the Christian era. There is no evidence to show, as Bp. Marsh observes, they were ever esteemed by the Egyptian Jews, as ranking in the same class as the Canonical books, though they were regarded with much respect.

The arguments, by which Grabe attempts to prove, that this Apocryphal arrangement existed in the original MSS. sent from Jerusalem to Alexandria, are of no weight. It is not probable that any of them even existed at that remote period. But, had they been sent from Jerusalem, no doubt they would have been noticed by Philo, or Josephus. It is plain, therefore, they were inserted at a subsequent era. This remark, I think, may also be extended to the Apocryphal additions, which are now attached to the books of Esther and Daniel. The references in the New Testament to the latter (*Matt. xxiv. 15, Marc. xv. 14*), accord literally with the LXX version. See also *1 Macc. i. 54, Jos. Ant. vi. 8, 4*.

There is some difficulty in accounting for the substitution of Theodotion's version of Daniel, by the Fathers of the second century. Clemens Romanus (*Epist. i. 34*) cites the LXX version almost literally. I do not enter into the controversies respecting the authenticity of the book itself, because they equally affect the Hebrew text. Mr. Stuart has sufficiently vindicated Daniel, as forming part of the ancient Jewish Canon, sect. xv. and Dr. Wordsworth shows, that it is included in all the ancient lists of the Canonical books of the Old Testament.

The Apocryphal objection, therefore, can never be fairly urged against the original version of the LXX; it applies merely to subsequent interpolations. Though the lists of the Canonical books of the Old Testament, in the early Fathers, must generally be supposed to bear an *immediate* reference to the Greek version, yet their Canon of Scripture was the same as our own, in respect of the names and number of the books. Hence a plain, undeniable inference may be drawn, that the Hellenistic Canon was the same as the Hebraic. Indeed, Origen gives their names both in Hebrew and in Greek.

But if any doubt could remain on this point, it would be removed by the public and avowed sentiments of the Greek Church, which, though adhering to the LXX as Canonical, yet rejects the Apocryphal books from that standard. It receives them just like the Church of England.—It rejects them from the Canon, because “*they do not exist in Hebrew.*” See the Catechism of the Eastern Church, reprinted by Doctor Wordsworth. *Appendix, pp.* 52-55.

On this subject it is necessary to be exact, because it is of great importance. It proves that the admission of the Septuagint to Scriptural authority, implies no change whatever of our Protestant sentiments respecting the Apocryphal books. The primitive Church, for the three first centuries, did clearly not receive as Canonical, any other books, but those which were translated from the Hebrew, in the Greek of the LXX. It is, therefore, self-evident, that if we adhere to the primitive Canon, by bringing the Hebrew and the LXX into one focus, we shall continue

zealously to exclude the Apocryphal writings from any higher rank, than that, in which our own Reformers hold them forth—for *example of life, and instruction of manners.*

The members of the Church of England consequently are not precluded from uniting the Greek version to the Hebrew text, in their Canon of the Old Testament, by any of our public or symbolical formularies. Several of our most learned Bishops and divines, amongst whom may be mentioned Bishops Walton, Burnet, Pearson, Warburton, &c. have clearly believed in its divine authority. Our own excellent translators professedly followed the Hebrew text—but they “diligently compared and revised” their own labours, “with the former translations.” They by no means neglected the use and authority of the LXX. Throughout the Old Testament, Jehovah is nearly always translated *Lord*. In this case, it may be said, they followed Jerome and the Vulgate; but it should be remembered, that Jerome and the Vulgate followed the Greek version. If you compare their translation with the LXX, you will find, that they occasionally prefer the LXX readings to those in the Hebrew text. Whoever desires a *literal* Hebraic version must betake himself to the versions of Pagninus or Montanus.

The fact, that we retain the Septuagint version of the Psalms in our Prayer-book, would suffice to intimate, that we are at liberty, as members of the Anglican Church, to admit the Scriptural authority of the Greek version, and to incorporate it with the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament. Nay, if this argument be pressed,

it might appear, that we are bound to receive it as such, for, "it is the only version of the Psalms" as Dr. Brett remarks, "to which we of the clergy, have given our solemn assent and consent."*—To say the least of it, *It is an open question.*

There is, I believe, no scholar or divine, whilst studying the present Masoretic text, who does not feel himself at liberty to compare it with the LXX, and occasionally to prefer its readings. All commentators and critics have endeavoured to elucidate what is obscure in the one, by collating it with what is plain in the other. But this is virtually admitting its scriptural and equivalent authority. It would be utterly inadmissible, to correct what is inspired, by that which is merely of human authority.

There is one point, indeed, which will justify this freedom, beyond all reasonable doubt. On the question of the comparative merit of the Hebrew and Septuagint chronology, there are few in the present age, who do not take part with the latter. Now, when it is considered, that the difference between the Hebrew and Greek computations amounts to more than 1400 years, and that no one is now blamed for following Jackson or Hales, in preference to Archbishop Usher; it leads to the general conclusion, that the authority of the LXX is, on some points, considered equal, if not superior, to that of the present Masoretic text.

In the days of the Buxtorfs, it was supposed, that the original text remained pure and immaculate, and that by

* See Brett's Dissertation On the Ancient Versions, p. 97, and Grabe's Proleg. tom. ii. §§ 26-39.

a perpetual miracle, every point and letter of that text had come down to us, without any error of transcription. This imaginary perfection gave to the Hebrew a prerogative, which could be claimed by no other ancient record. Nor am I prepared to affirm, that if such miraculous superintendence could have been shown to be real, we could have any right to associate with it another, which has been liable to all the errors of copyists. But since it is plainly ascertained, that the Hebrew and Greek MSS. have suffered alike from the effects of time and transcription, it is unreasonable to insist upon claims, which cannot be supported by corresponding evidence. And yet, the echo of this supposed supernatural interference in behalf of the Hebrew text, still dwells on the minds of many excellent Christians, and renders them deaf to any terms of accommodation between records, which should mutually sympathise in each other's disasters. The knowledge, that the Hebrew, the LXX, and the New Testament MSS. have suffered alike from the errors of transcribers, should silence every attempt to exalt, or to depreciate, and should teach us to moderate our demands on supernatural interference, in matters which do not substantially affect either our faith or our duty.

It is now ascertained, beyond all controversy, that both the Hebrew Bible and the Greek Testament have frequently suffered through the errors of transcribers. The labours of Kennicott and De Rossi on the Hebrew, are parallel to those of Bos, Breitinger, Holmes and Parsons on the LXX. They show there are thousands of various readings, occasioned by the mistakes of transcription. But

they evince the far more important fact, — that the worst MS. in existence, whether Hebrew or Greek, would be adequate to convey to us all that is really important, either for doctrine or practice.*

It must be admitted, however, that there do exist some important discrepancies between the present Hebrew text and the version of the LXX, which cannot be explained by the errors of transcription. Many of these are readily accounted for, by supposing, that the LXX translated from unpointed MSS. The Masorites, it should always be recollected, have stereotyped their own interpretations, by their systematic points. Others result from an original difference of interpretation. Thus in *Ps. cv.* 28, the LXX translate, “They were not obedient unto his word,” whilst, according to the Hebrew, we read it in our Bible version, “They rebelled not against his word.” Here is plainly a difference of interpretation; the one, referring it to Moses, the other, to the Egyptians.—In such instances, we are left to our own judgments, though I am free to confess, I would *generally* follow the original, in preference to the version.

But when it is considered, that in several passages, the Evangelists and Apostles have thought right to follow the Greek version, *even where it plainly differs from the Hebrew*,† this acknowledgment should not be considered, as implying any degradation of the Septuagint. In all such passages, its inspiration is fully warranted by the paramount authority of the New Testament.—Nay, it is

* Appendix, No. 7.

† Appendix, No. 6.

then put before us in its most striking aspect—*It is the force of contrast.*

To illustrate this observation, let us turn to *Proverbs xi. 31.* In our Bible, it is translated, *Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth, much more the wicked and the sinner.* This is in accordance with the Hebrew text. But, in the LXX, it stands thus: *If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?* Now, this interpretation of the LXX is warranted and ratified by *St. Peter iv. 18,* who adopts it as his own. Would any one venture to blame the LXX for an interpretation, which has been sanctioned by Inspired authority?

Perhaps no better reason can be assigned, for the permission of some important discrepancies between the Hebrew text and the Greek version, than that the study of the one, was designed, by no means, to supersede the study of the other. Had the Greek been an exact and literal version of the Hebrew, every motive for the study of the original would have been removed. Had Jesus and his Apostles never quoted the Hebrew, it would have almost superseded its value, in the estimation of the Christian Church. Had he never quoted the LXX, that version could not have deserved our reverence and esteem. Or, if the LXX had been an exact copy of the Hebrew, it would have been impracticable to have distinguished these quotations, for they would have invariably agreed with both.—“*I make use of both the Hebrew and the Septuagint,*” says Augustine, “*because I find them both*

quoted in the New Testament."—Can any man adduce a plainer, or more scriptural argument?*

This eminent Father was also of opinion, it was to mark the Divine sanction given to this version, that it is not a mere servile copy of the Hebrew text. Certain it is, there are passages in the New Testament, cited from it, which are not to be found in Hebrew. Thus *Heb. i. 6*, *Let all the angels of God worship him*, rests entirely on Septuagintal authority.—It was to wean us, perhaps, from an exclusive reverence, or undue partiality to either, that our Saviour and the Apostles have referred to both. If so, may not the *version* have been more frequently cited, because it needed and required the stronger sanction to uphold it?

There is a remarkable omission, which seems indirectly to intimate the supreme veneration, in which the Greek version was held, by the writers of the New Testament. It consists, in the absence of all citation or reference to that wonderful prediction, *Isaiah ix. 6*, *Unto us a child is born*, &c. Such omission, I apprehend, would be almost unaccountable, if we did not know, that this passage is not to be found in any of the MSS. of the LXX. In the Hebrew text, it is undoubtedly genuine: but its absence from the Septuagint, precluded its citation to the Hellenistic converts. The Apostles would not disturb their confidence in a version, which was peculiarly designed for their use, and which had led them to the belief of the Gospel.

* Appendix, No. 5.

If we may hazard a conjecture, this omission in the Greek version may be alike explained, on sacred and prudential considerations. The Macedonian dynasty was only recently established at Alexandria, and the Jews, on account of their religion, were viewed with much suspicion. Had the translators inserted such a strong passage, it might have led to the total destruction of their labours. Might it not then be ordered by Providence, that they should pass over a prediction, the real meaning of which might be totally misapprehended, and which might defeat the object of their mission? The same conjecture I think may be extended to several other passages in their version of the Prophetical books. [Compare *Marc. iv. 33. John .xvi. 12. 1 Cor. iii. 2.*]

It is an old and true remark, that Isaiah, the most distinguished of the Prophets, seems the most imperfectly translated of any portion of the LXX. Large portions are omitted, and much obscurity is thrown over several of his most striking predictions. We may account for this, I think, on the principle above stated. This version was designed to “be a light to lighten the Gentiles.” But that light was to be gradual and progressive—or, as it is expressed elsewhere, “a light shining in a dark place.” Now, many of these predictions of Isaiah are so strong, in their relation to the advent and glory of the Messias, to his regal authority, and the power and extent of his kingdom; that, had they been all fully and clearly translated into the vernacular tongue, they might have led to much confusion and insurrection, amongst the Jews of the Dispersion. Enough was left to awaken their hopes, and to animate

their desires. Defective as this Greek version of Isaiah is, it is quoted much at large in the New Testament, and seldom, with any considerable deviations from the existing text.—We dwell on these particulars, because they tend to advocate the Inspiration of this version, amidst all its apparent discrepancies and imperfections. Perhaps it was the “lesser light” to rule the night of the Gentile world—whilst the “greater light” was the glory of Israel. Yet, however inferior in lustre, it enabled the Gentiles to press into the kingdom of God, before the more privileged descendants of Abraham.

This reflection should ever endear this version to our regards. It is our own peculiar portion and heritage. It belongs to us, as “the voice, which cried in the desert.” It is like “the beautiful feet of those, who proclaimed glad tidings on the mountains.” Wonder not, that it was owned and cited by Evangelists and Apostles. It had already prepared a highway in the wilderness for their approach, nay, it had already preached, by anticipation, the very words and tidings of the Gospel. Wonder not, that it was owned and quoted, by the Saviour of the world. It had already told of his nativity, of his sufferings, of his death, of his resurrection and ascension—of his Divine origin, and of his incarnate humility. Wonder not, that it was appropriated by the Divine Spirit to the service of the Gospel, in the pages of the New Testament. Its language was the same—its phraseology was identical. How could the records of the gospel, if written in Greek, have been recorded in any other style, than that of the Septuagint?

It should never be forgotten, that Jesus conversed with his disciples, not only in Greek, but in the current language of Judæa, which was Syro-Chaldaic, or, as it is now denominated Aramaic. Even his last solemn words from the Cross were uttered in that dialect. Wherever the word *Hebrew* is mentioned in the New Testament, this spoken dialect is denoted. The knowledge of Greek was confined chiefly to the upper orders, and to the Roman officers. This is plain from the question of the chief captain to Paul, *Act. xvi. 37, Canst thou speak Greek?*

But, the New Testament being designed for an abiding record of the origin and history of Christianity, it was wisely ordered, that this transient and provincial dialect should be transmuted into that permanent and enduring form, in which we now receive it. That form is the Hellenistic language of the LXX.—It was transmuted, as we firmly believe, under the immediate superintendence of the Holy Spirit. This change of the vernacular of Judæa into Hebraic or Hellenistic Greek, stamps an importance on that idiom, as consecrated and peculiar to Inspiration. It is the appropriate diction of the Holy Spirit.—To the unbeliever and the “disputer of this world,” this change may appear “a stumbling block,” and afford matter of doubt and controversy. To the believer, it is like the doctrine of the Cross—“the power and the wisdom of God.” It is his power, because it implies something extraordinary and supernatural. It is his wisdom, because, if that change had not been accomplished, the phraseology of the New Testament would have now been scarcely intelligible.

During the stay of our Lord on earth, i. e. during the history and events recorded by the Evangelists, it is probable, that the provincial language of Judæa was usually, though not always, used by Christ and the Apostles. Their teaching and intercourse were generally confined to those, who may be supposed to have been chiefly conversant with this dialect. Even after the Ascension, it would appear, that for some time, they still limited their preaching chiefly to Judæa, Samaria and Galilee. It was not till about eight years subsequently, Peter was fully convinced by Cornelius, that the Gospel was designed for the acceptance of the Gentiles, as well as the Jews. Still, such were their prepossessions, that even two years afterwards, when they "were scattered abroad, upon the persecution that arose about Stephen, and had travelled as far as Phenice, Cyprus and Antioch, they preached the word to none, but unto Jews only. But some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch (of Syria), spake unto the *Grecians*, preaching the Lord Jesus." *Acts xi.* 18-20. It is probable, that the provincial dialects were afterwards gradually superseded by the more general use of Greek, which henceforth became their usual channel of instruction, amongst the Gentiles. Thus, when Paul came subsequently to Antioch (of Pisidia), there can be no question, that he addressed them in Greek. The Jews mentioned were doubtless Hellenists, well versed in the Greek Old Testament. In all his subsequent travels in Asia Minor, he must have used the same language, for he was in the midst of Grecian colonies. But, when he passed over

into Greece, this fact is still more evident. "The man of Macedonia," who cried, *Come over and help us*, could not have been helped, had he been addressed, in any other language, than that of the Macedonic Greek of the LXX.—It is proper to dwell on this transition from the provincial dialect of Judæa, to the use of the Hellenistic or Hebraic Greek, because it at once illustrates the history of the Gospels, and develops the concurrent argument of this Apology.*

Whatever of Divine power or wisdom was displayed in this change of Syro-Chaldaic into Greek, must primarily redound to the honour and dignity of the Septuagint. It is a prerogative and distinction, such as was never assigned to any other volume. It is the Spirit of God, deliberately selecting and appropriating the diction of that version, as the diction of the New Testament.

There is, indeed, a discernible propriety, in electing some marked and characteristic style of thought and expression, some *usus et norma loquendi*, as the permanent medium of a written Revelation. When God addresses man, whether through Patriarchs, Prophets, Evangelists, or Apostles, above all, through his only-begotten Son, it seems befitting that he should address him, in some sacred and peculiar form of speech. This type and form is essentially Hebraic. It was so in the days of Moses, and it will continue unchanged, till the end of the world. Amidst every variety of version, whether ancient or modern, this language of the Bible remains indelible. The

* Appendix, No. 15.

great conductor has been the Greek Septuagint. This is the trunk which has conveyed it to all nations, through versions of the Old Testament. But it has found a reservoir in the New Testament, which has transformed it, as it were, into "that river of the water of life, which proceeds from the throne of the Lamb." The diction of the New Testament, being essentially the same as that of the Septuagint, has invested that version with a lustre and dignity, which raises it to the full level of its original. The tidings of the gospel are always preached and pronounced in Septuagintal language, and the poorest cottager, who can read his Bible, is as much indebted to it, as the most learned academic. Should you ever doubt the Inspiration of the Septuagint, as a version of the Old Testament; you will find all your doubts removed, by considering it, as an essential component of the New.

A still further plea for the Inspiration of the Septuagint, may be found, in the vast and striking accession of credibility, which it brings both to the external and internal evidence of Divine Revelation. Had the text of the Old Testament been confined solely to Hebrew, it would, as Warburton remarks, have looked too much like a cipher, to all the rest of the world, except the Jews.* And though this learned prelate carries the assertion too far, when he declares, that it would have "been utterly unintelligible, without the Greek version, and that the masoretic text would then have been a mere nose of wax;" "yet, it would have presented such a suspicious aspect, that it is

* "Letters to Hurd." Lett. 25th.

difficult to estimate the recoil, which would have been felt on the New Testament, from the sole absence of the Hellenistic version.

The Old Testament would then also have looked like a Revelation, entirely confined to a particular people. The God of the Jews would scarcely have been recognised, as the God of the Gentiles; and all the objections of infidelity would have been urged with a force and plausibility, which we can now scarcely realize. The union of the Greek tongue with the Jewish religion, took it out of this partial and national aspect. Such a majestic scaffolding betokens an Almighty hand. Such a wondrous combination denotes the finger of Inspiration. It has expanded all our conceptions of the Mosaic economy, and scouted the cramp and niggard notions of artificial theology.

And thus the version of the LXX, is not to be regarded merely as the first and most important of all versions of the Old Testament, whether ancient or modern; but as constituting a great historical fact or epoch, in the plan of the Christian Dispensation. It would be difficult to mention any fact, which has produced larger or more important consequences.* It has continued in operation for more than 2000 years, nor will it cease to operate, till the last Jew shall be converted to the Cross. When Malachi, the last of the prophets, had closed the Hebrew Canon, the Septuagint was ordained to keep alive that canon, the Hebrew being no longer understood. It remained the living lustre of Moses and the Prophets,

* See Graves On the Pentateuch. Vol. ii. Lect. 5. Part. 3.

till that lustre was eclipsed by the rising of the Sun of Righteousness. Then it arrived at its meridian glory. *Never man spake like that man*, and never book was honoured like that, which is so often quoted in the New Testament. Repelled by canonists, or renounced by scholars, this version may indignantly exclaim, in the words of Him, who has so often owned it: "*If ye believe not me, believe me for my works' sake.*"

Great was its fame and glory in the primitive Church, yet it is not correct to impute the neglect of the Hebrew text, to the prevalence and popularity of the LXX. It was the inevitable consequence of that language having ceased to be vernacular, for so many hundred years before the Christian era. In the age of Christ and the Apostles, they were obliged to furnish Syriac Targums or Paraphrases, even to the Jews of Palestine, as a substitute for the Hebrew text. But the Jews of the Dispersion, who formed the original *nucleus* of the Christian Church, had long before betaken themselves, to the use and study of the LXX. It cannot therefore be considered, in point of time, as the cause or occasion of their neglect of the Hebrew Scriptures, when they subsequently became the converts of Christianity.

Considered in a Providential view, the oblivion and neglect of the Hebrew formed an important link, in that chain of penal chastisements which were inflicted on the Jews, for their ancient idolatries, and their subsequent rejection of the Messias. It was also the chief external cause of engrafting the Gentiles, on the stock of Israel. To carry out this purpose, it would seem indispensable,

that their native language should suffer an eclipse, and that the most universal language of the Gentiles should be adopted in its stead. Such was the actual state of things, at the birth of Christ, and during the Apostolic age. The primitive church, therefore, only fulfilled and carried out these Providential designs, by her general use and adoption of the Greek version of the Ancient Scriptures.

If we may presume to trace the intention of Providence, in this long sleep and oblivion of the Hebrew text amongst the followers of Christ, perhaps we may discern it, First, in fixing deep the foundations of Christianity, apart from Jewish rites and ceremonies; and Secondly, in confining the attention of Christians chiefly to the study of the New Testament, and of that peculiar style in which it is recorded. Had the study of Hebrew flourished in the early Church, the glories of the Mosaic economy might have dwelt too much on the minds and manners of the early Christians. It was wisely ordered therefore, that it should be seen only "through a glass darkly, and not face to face"—It was of great importance, that the first teachers of Christianity should have their minds strongly, nay, almost exclusively, directed to the New Testament, and that the Old Testament should be considered chiefly, as subordinate and introductory. This was effected by means of that version, written in the same language, and so continually quoted by Jesus and the Apostles.

A great and signal benefit also was conferred on the primitive Church, by preventing all controversy and dispute, concerning the comparative value of the Hebrew and the Greek text of the Old Testament. Hence none of the

early adversaries of Christianity could distract the minds of the believers of the three first centuries, by proposing contradictory sources of Biblical interpretation.—It is with the deepest humility I submit these observations, to the attention of the Christian public. They are closely connected with the general argument of this Apology, and may lead others of deeper and more comprehensive thought, to a more profound contemplation of these interesting themes.

But, when four hundred years had passed away, and the “middle wall of partition” was completely broken down between the Jew and the Gentile, when the Christian Church had cast its roots far and wide, and the standard of the Cross was raised, as an ensign amongst all nations; then, we may discern the same Providential care and wisdom, in raising up Jerome, for the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Latin, and for inviting the love and respect of the Christian Church, to the original text of Moses and the Prophets. Still, this revival was kept within very narrow limits. It was confined to the obscure medium of that Latin version, which we now call the Vulgate. The study of Hebrew again died away with Jerome and Origen. It was remembered amongst Christians, like the pyramids of Egypt, to tell of departed grandeur and renown; whilst amongst Jews, it was so buried under Rabbinical and Talmudic fables, that it seemed scarcely to retain even the vestige of its original fame and character.

This strange and unnatural taste continued amongst the Jews, throughout the mediæval period. It still reigns

amongst them to a great extent, though, it is said, to be gradually giving way, to a more attentive study of their Ancient Scriptures. Hence it is, that an unconverted Jew, can generally afford but little help in the study of Biblical Hebrew, because his chief delight and study consists in consulting Rabbins, and in poring over the Mishna and Gemara.

At the era of the Reformation, we may again trace the same Divine love and care of the Church, by the gradual revival and restoration of Hebrew literature. The knowledge of the Hebrew tongue had slept, amongst Christians, for nearly 1000 years since the days of Jerome. His Latin version was the solitary taper, which had dimly shone in the surrounding gloom, and even that light was scarcely comprehended in the general chaos. The common people repeated their prayers in an unknown tongue. The Scriptures were wellnigh inaccessible to the bulk of the laity.

It was a signal blessing, when Munster, Reuchlin, Fagius, Pellicanus, and their associates, recalled the attention of the Christian Church, to the study of the Hebrew Scriptures; but it was unfortunate that Protestants, in their zeal for this invaluable study, should consider it as part of their duty, to decry and undervalue that Greek version, which had so long supplied its absence in the primitive Church. The wise, and moderate, and Scriptural course to pursue, had been to cherish the combined love and study and veneration of both.—But alas! human nature is ever prone to extremes. No sooner was the knowledge of the Hebrew language imported amongst the Lutheran and

Reformed divines, than the ancient dispute concerning the comparative value of the Original and the Version was revived.*

It may be curious, perhaps useful, to take a brief sketch of the different *phases*, under which the study of Hebrew has been prosecuted, since the date of its revival amongst Christians. By its earliest students, it was necessarily received from the Jews, and was naturally accompanied with every Jewish prejudice. By Galatinus and Reuchin, it was conceived to possess the deepest mysteries of the Kabbalah, in its words and letters. To doubt of the antiquity of the vowel-points, in the days of Buxtorf, was to expose yourself to the imputation of positive heresy. Capellus came forth to the contest, and his *Arcanum Punctuationis* was generally esteemed decisive of their fate. The Hebrew was thus freed from Masoretic shackles, but it became exposed to dangers of another kind. It was imagined by Cocceius, that the sublimest mysteries of Christianity might be detected in its elements. The Lexicon of Gussetius will at once amuse and amaze, by its absurd erudition. The study of Hebrew continued popular in this country during the dynasty of the Stewarts, and was pursued with equal assiduity by Churchmen and Nonconformists. There was this difference, however, between them, as may be seen by the dispute of Bishop Walton and Dr. John Owen, — that the former held the LXX in much higher esteem, than the latter.† And this

* Appendix, No. 7.

† See "The Considerator Considered," by Walton, sect. xv, and Twells's Life of Pocock, pp. 318-333. Lond. 1816.

difference would probably have continued, had not the school of Hutchinson arisen, in the last century, to revive the dreams of Reuchin and Cocceius. They found the doctrine of the Trinity, in almost every verse of the Hebrew text, and as no such discovery could be pretended, in the Version, it again sank into comparative disrepute. Hare and Lowth attempted in vain, to connect its study with classic literature. Since their days, it has become popular to read the Hebrew without points, which is destructive of any deep, or accurate knowledge. Its last and present *phasis* is that of the German Neologists, who boast of having renovated its entire study. By blending it with Arabic, like Schultens, they have nearly buried its remains, whilst by mingling it with metaphysical speculation, they have rendered it a vehicle of infidel doubt and daring,—a thin Biblical cover for *Nortonism* or *Hegelmism*.—Let any one compare the literature of Gesenius with that of Walton or Pocock, and he will learn to estimate the value of Biblical Hebrew, as studied with, or without, the version of the LXX.

The study of Hebrew can never become generally useful amongst us, till it is reunited to that language, which is the charm and solace of men of taste and literature. At present, its knowledge is confined comparatively to a few hardy and recluse students, and of those who attempt it in early life, few, even amongst the clergy, continue to prosecute its study, in later years. The truth is, that the Hebrew, collated with the LXX, is at once an intelligible and agreeable occupation, because it then opens to us the *rationale* of the Greek Testament dialect. But, when

divided from the LXX, it is dark and dubious, and it becomes so difficult and obscure, when connected with Oriental dialects, as to render its knowledge unattainable by any considerable portion, even of the more studious clergy.—We advert to these particulars, to show, how many and urgent are the motives, for again contemplating the Hellenistic version, as the partner and expositor of the Hebrew archetype.—It is thus, accordingly, that an ancient Father of the Church sets forth its advantages: *Hi itaque Seniores libros hos transferentes, et Spiritalem secundum Moysi traditionem occultarum cognitionem scientiam adepti, ambigua linguæ Hebræicæ dicta et varia quædam ex se nuntiantia, secundum virtutes rerum certis et propriis verborum significationibus transtulerunt, &c.* Hilar. Pict. Tract. in Psal. ii. num. 2, Edit. Veron, 1730, tom. i. p. 31.

It is vain however to expect, that the Septuagint can ever be considered the friend and companion of the Hebrew, unless it be raised to its primary and original standard. It is not by extolling it, as venerable and useful, but receiving it as sacred, and of Divine authority, that we shall bring it once more into contact with the Divine original. The Syriac version of the Old and New Testament is venerable for its age, and it is also useful for its applicability to aid us in the interpretation of Scripture. But it was never regarded of Scriptural or canonical authority, either in the Eastern or Western Church. The reason is obvious. The Syriac version of the Old and New Testament was made subsequently to the era of Christianity—probably in the second century. It could not aspire to the honour of being, like the Greek version,

the forerunner of Christ and the Apostles. It could not receive the seal of Inspiration, by being incorporated with the New Testament. Nor is it, like the LXX, the stock and parent of all other versions.

It is the peculiar prerogative of the Septuagint, that it constitutes the *Viaduct* between the Old and New Testament, that it forms an essential element in the history of the Jewish and Christian Church, and that, unlike all other versions, it is raised to the dignity of an Original, by the personal sanction of Christ and the Apostles. Other versions may be subsidiary, like grammars or lexicons; but this is indispensable, because it forms part and parcel of the New Testament. You might as well expect the clay and the iron to amalgamate, as bring what is merely human and uninspired, to associate with that which is supernatural and Divine.

It should also be remembered, that the peculiar style of Greek, in which the LXX and New Testament are composed, forms one of the strongest internal evidences of their mutual truth and authenticity. None but Jews of the Dispersion could have written any considerable portion of either. The diction of this version is so identified with the whole phraseology of Evangelists and Apostles, that we may challenge any learning or ingenuity to set aside the philological evidence, that the New Testament must have been composed by Hellenistic converts, during the first century, and prior to the fall of Jerusalem. No such Greek phraseology long survived that event. The numberless citations from the LXX, in the Fathers of the three first centuries, also corroborate the fact, that no other version

was then received in the Christian Church.—But these, and many other incidental facts, illustrative of the truth of Christianity, are more or less connected with the Septuagint. They tend to show how extensively it was employed by Divine Wisdom, to carry out its gracious and merciful designs in the propagation of the Gospel.

Nor will this observation appear extravagant, if we look around, and contemplate the wide and enduring influence, which this version still possesses in the Christian world. Not only is it read exclusively in the Greek Church, but its influence pervades all the Oriental versions. Its psaltery forms the instrument of praise and thanksgiving to all nations, where the name of Christ is heard or sung. It has transferred its influence even to versions, which profess to be taken from the Hebrew text. Above all, by its diction and citation, it enters so largely into the New Testament, that whilst we are reading the Gospels and Epistles, we are continually reading the words and language of the LXX. How little do we consider, that the most argumentative, awful, and affecting portions of the New Testament, are recorded in the very words and phrases of the Septuagint! Prejudice or ingratitude may affect to look down on a version made by Alexandrian Jews; but, whilst a spark of Christian devotion remains, whilst the name of Christ is adored—whilst Evangelists and Apostles are held in reverence—so long should the Septuagint be regarded, as the vestibule of the Christian Church—the best interpreter of the Old Testament, and the sole Canonical expositor of the New.

It is full time, to review with calmness and delibera-

tion, our popular Canon of the Old Testament, both in relation to the primitive Church, and the attacks of modern unbelievers. If we relinquish the faith of the Church for the first 400 years, as respects the Scriptural authority of the Septuagint, it will be very difficult to establish its sanction, on any other topic of appeal. But, should we totally repudiate its claims to Inspiration, I do not comprehend, how we can establish the Inspiration of the New Testament. There is a body of quotation from the LXX in the New Testament, amounting, as nearly as I can estimate, to the bulk of St. Mark's Gospel.—*Are these numerous passages to be esteemed of sacred, or profane authority?**

If you agree with Spearman and the school of Hutchinson, that Christ and the Apostles, in adducing these passages from the LXX, did not avouch their Divine authority, but merely “took them as they found them;” † then, you will make such a breach in the sacred records, as no learning, no ingenuity can ever repair. If, on the other hand, you assert, that the mass of citation from the LXX becomes inspired *pro tanto*, solely on account of its citation; then, you suggest to the mind such a miracle, as can scarce be accredited, by any amount of faith. It were next to a contradiction, to believe, that so much, and no

* Appendix, No. 5.

† “It may be considered, that the Apostles generally cited from the Greek of the LXX version, and took it as they found it, making no alteration, when the passage as it then stood, was sufficient to prove the main point, which it was adduced to prove.”—*Bp. Horne's Preface to the Psalms.* See Appendix, No. 3.

more, of that version is inspired. Yet, this is what all believers in the plenary Inspiration of the New Testament are forced to admit, when they deny the general Inspiration of the LXX.*

As to those, who deny professedly the plenary Inspiration of the New Testament, it will be generally found, that they likewise deny all Scriptural rank and importance, to this Greek version. The Arian or Socinian dislikes the Septuagint, for the same reason, that the ancient Jew disliked it, when he found, that the early Christians were constantly drawing their strongest arguments, from the Alexandrian text. No man can long read the Greek New Testament, in company with the Greek Old Testament, and not come to the clear and heartfelt conviction, that all Divine titles in the LXX may be ascribed to Jesus Christ, and that every doctrine of Christianity, may be pourtrayed and expressed, in Septuagintal phraseology.

Hence the Arian and Socinian Commentators are compelled to retreat into Hebrew obscurity. The darkness of Hebrew words may seem to favour any opinion. If they admitted the Greek version to be of equal authority, that darkness would soon be dispelled. But, by casting aside this version, they cloak and conceal their errors, if not from others, at least from themselves.*

Perhaps the most striking instance of prejudice and disregard of the Septuagint, is to be found in Taylor's Paraphrase, Romans, cap. iii. v. 4, "*That thou mightest be*

* Appendix, No. 7.

justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.—“This,” says he, “may be a true translation of the Greek, but it is not so agreeable to the original Hebrew, nor to the Apostle’s sense and design.” He then gives a translation from the Hebrew of *his own*, which he confesses, “doth not exactly tally with the Greek of the Septuagint, *which the Apostle uses in this quotation.*”—“*But for my own part,*” he concludes, “*I pay no regard to the words of the LXX, as quoted in the New Testament.* The Hebrew is my standard, because I am persuaded, it was so, to the Apostle.” I need scarce observe, that all arguments for the LXX would be lost on such a partisan.—Yet it is only a fair and logical deduction, if we deny the Inspiration of the Greek version.

“We can hardly suppose,” says this critic, “so good a scholar as St. Paul, who was perfectly acquainted with the Scriptures in the Original Hebrew, nor indeed any of the Apostles, would rest their arguments on a *translation*, or risk their reputation, by making themselves answerable for all the faults that might be in it. They quoted it, indeed, but, I suppose, no otherwise, than as they would have quoted an English translation, had they wrote their Letters in English, to the inhabitants of Great Britain; not so much to adopt the sense of the translation, as to refer to the passages in Scripture. When the Hebrew and Greek differ, I cannot find the Apostles once argue from the Greek.”—This is a fair specimen of Socinian criticism, and it shows the theological effect of indulging contempt for the Septuagint. Taylor was a profound Hebraist, but his knowledge of Hebrew did not conduct him

to the knowledge of Christ. He speaks of the Apostles, just as if they were Greek sophists, disputing for fame and worldly applause. He does not condescend even to notice "The Galilean," who always argues and appeals to the Greek version. His assertion is generally false, as it relates to the Apostles, who commonly ground their arguments on the words of the LXX. See *Appendix, No. 6*. It is invariably false, as regards our blessed Lord, who constantly reasons from the Greek text. See *Appendix, No. 17*.

The citations of the New Testament, it should be remembered, are not like rhetorical illustrations, adduced for ornament and embellishment; they are the cardinal pillars of our Lord's mission, the documents, on which, he founds his claim, as the promised Messiah. With the exception of two small classical quotations by St. Paul, nearly all the Old Testament references by Jesus and the Apostles, are urged, as evidences of fulfilled predictions, or as the basis of present reasoning. Had they drawn their citations from an uncanonical version, or such as did not carry with it a Divine sanction, the Scribes and Pharisees would have instantly objected to their appeals. But we find no such objections alluded to, either in the New Testament, or in any of the ancient Apologies.

The supposition, that though the Greek version was cited, it was always done, with a secret reservation of appeal to the Hebrew text, is so incredible, and involves such mental duplicity, as to render it unworthy of serious notice. This, indeed, would have been to "deal deceitfully with the Word of God," to have said, "Yea, yea,

and Nay, nay."—But the supposition is not only unscriptural, it is unnatural and absurd.—It is to suppose the Apostles could appeal, from a version, which all might read and understand, to an original, which for many centuries had been unintelligible to all, except a few learned Rabbins.

There is, indeed, no little danger to be apprehended, from collating the Hebrew text with the Greek version, in our comments and discourses, unless we heartily admit the parity between them. It is no trivial blunder, to compare what is acknowledged as divine, with that which is supposed to be merely human. Infidels look on, and sneer at this strange anomaly, and think, we can hardly be in earnest, whilst confounding such contradictory and heterogeneous materials. If we believe the Septuagint version to be inspired and of Scriptural authority, we have a clear right to collate its interpretations, with those of the Hebrew text. *But no man can serve two masters.* We degrade the Hebrew, if we bring it down to the level of an uninspired version, and we unduly exalt that version, if we collate it with the Hebrew.

As relates to the New Testament, there is nothing more contradictory or offensive, than to behold lists of citations, formally arranged according to the Greek or Hebrew text, and then to find, the vast majority set down to the account of a version, devoid of Divine Inspiration! It is full time, that we should arrive at some clear and definite decision, on this momentous question. If we consider the Septuagint of divine authority, we may collate it, either with the Hebrew of the Old, or with the Greek, of the New

Testament; but, if we regard it, as uninspired and uncanonical, then we should collate it, with neither.

Yet, after every effort of talent and every aid of learning, it is vain to expect, that all obstacles will be cleared away, and nothing left to try our candour, or exercise our faith. There are difficulties belonging to the evidence, as well as the doctrine of Revelation, which no human sagacity or industry can altogether overcome. Whilst *we see in part, we can only know in part*. To expect that the study of theology will ever be freed from all obscurity, is to expect that, which is not compatible with a state of discipline and moral trial. Amongst these difficulties, some belong to the history of the Canon, and others to the discrepancies between the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Old Testament. No ingenuity, no extent of erudition will ever dispel much of that darkness, which hangs over the Hebrew archetype. Houbigant, the bold-est of Hebrew critics, essayed in vain, by conjectural alterations, to throw light on these difficulties. Nor have the efforts to restore the LXX been attended with more favourable results. Something, no doubt, has been accomplished—but the progress is not sufficient to encourage the hope, that the time will ever arrive, when every obscurity will be removed. The patient method of collation, though the slowest, is the safest and the best—All short, off-hand attempts, at illustrating the Sacred Scriptures, are rash and fruitless.—*Haud facilem esse viam voluit.*

Much, very much, still remains to be effected for the LXX, by a joint collation of the Hebrew text, and of the

New Testament. Yet this can never be accomplished with success, but in the full conviction of their divine parity. To treat it as a human version, and then to collate it with inspired materials, is to build upon the sand—it is to expose ourselves and our labours, to the merited scorn of unbelievers.

Having devoted many years, to the continuous and ardent endeavour, to unite the study of the Greek New Testament with that of the Septuagint version of the Old; may I be allowed, before quitting the world, to make this earnest appeal, to justify my labours, and to manifest the solidity of that foundation on which they are built?—It were not only labour lost, but mischievous, “to daub with untempered mortar” the walls of Zion. If I have passed my days, in vain, irrational, and hazardous efforts to conjoin the Word of God to the word of man, if I have laboured to identify divine truth with human error, then, indeed, it were a sad retrospect, and still sadder prospect.—But, I am not yet convicted of mistake. I cannot forego the desire, to combine the New Testament with the version of the LXX, nor to avow my full and firm conviction of its Scriptural and canonical authority. The grounds of my conviction are here presented to the Public.—They are the result of the most calm, patient and laborious investigation, and their truth and importance are indelibly impressed—

*Vos exemplaria Græca,
Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ.*

Yet, in the pursuit of this favourite object, I have never sought to undervalue the study of the Hebrew original, nor even to question its general superiority. My senti-

ments are those of Capellus,* that, on the whole, the Hebrew Scriptures, give the best sense and meaning, as regards the Old Testament, though with many and important exceptions in favour of the LXX; but, that this version, viewed in relation to the New Testament, becomes of equal, if not superior, utility and importance.

Let us suppose, for the sake of the argument, that the student of the Old Testament could entirely dispense with the use of the Alexandrian version, and that every Hebrew word was so plain and significant, that it required no supplementary aid to explain it; yet the relative value of the LXX to the exposition of the New Testament, would remain entire and undiminished. It would still remain uncontroverted, that the Greek of the New Testament was identical with that of the LXX, and that, by far the greater number of citations was taken *verbatim* from its pages. No doubt or dispute, concerning its value, in reference to the Hebrew text, could affect its supreme value and importance, in reference to the Hellenistic style of the New Testament. The disciple of Christianity would still be compelled to study the title-deeds of his own faith, in the LXX version. He would still be obliged to contemplate the language of Christ and his Apostles, on the mirror of the Septuagint. Dispute and differ, as we may, concerning its comparative value to the Hebrew, there can be no dispute, respecting its positive value, in regard to the records of our own religion.

But, without depreciating in any degree, the value of

* Critic. Sacr. lib. iv. cap. 16, p. 304. Edit. Par. 1650.

the Old Testament, we may safely affirm, that the study of the New, is of far greater use and importance to us, as Christians. If then the diligent study of the LXX be essential to a critical knowledge of the New Testament, let no man be persuaded, by an affected scorn and contempt of it as a *version*, to question its dignity, or to deny its Biblical rank.*

Nor should its acknowledged inferiority of style and expression indispose us to grant the real claims of the Septuagint, as the best interpreter of the New Testament. On examination, it will be found, that it possesses this appearance of comparative inferiority, in common with the writings of the Evangelists and Apostles. It is impossible not to perceive, that there is a majesty and sublimity, pervading the Old Testament, which is displayed, only occasionally, in the New. This arises, partly from the difference of language, but still more from that of thought and imagery. The one, is awful, the other, amiable. The one, is sublime, the other, beautiful. In the Old Testament, we hear the thunders of Sinai; in the New, "the still small voice" of love and compassion.

Now, if the version of the LXX had retained all the majesty and sublimity of the original, it could not have approached to the more gentle and persuasive tone of the New Testament. It is, because it exchanges the severe dignity of the Hebrew, for the milder aspect of the Greek, that it comes into unison and harmony with the style and manner of Jesus and the Apostles. The

* See Appendix, No. 15.

remark of the son of Sirach, that the same expressions, translated out of Hebrew into another language, do not retain their original force, is often exemplified in the version of the LXX, and has often been charged against it. But, if it be an imperfection, it is one which no Christian can regret, because, without such modification, we could not apply it, to its most important purpose.

It is chiefly in reference to the New Testament, that the Christian divine is called on to read and study the Septuagint. Its peculiar value consists, in its being a *version* of the Old Testament, expressly adapted to the New. It is Hebrew converted into the same idiomatic Greek. Whatever be its comparative inferiority, as a history of the Old Testament, is amply compensated by its practical importance, as the Inspired interpreter of Evangelists and Apostles. Whoever studies the Greek New Testament in conjunction with the LXX, will obtain such a conception of the unity of the Bible, as never could be obtained, from the study of two different and discordant languages.

Dr. Wordsworth and M. Gaussen are of opinion, that there are no degrees, or different measures of Inspiration. But, with all due respect to these learned writers, I think we may infer, from St. Paul's account of the miraculous gifts in the early church, there were some more excellent than others, and that this difference depended, on the degree, in which, the Divine Spirit was imparted to each. The ancient Jews believed, that Moses was favoured, in this respect, above all their subsequent Prophets. They probably founded this opinion, on those passages of Scrip-

ture, in which it is said, that *God spake unto Moses face to face*, &c. See *Exod. xxxiii. 11. Deut. xxxiv. 10.* One, there was, and only one, to whom, the Spirit was given, without any restrictive degree or measure.

There is nothing unscriptural, in supposing, that the Inspiration, bestowed on these Jewish interpreters, was of another order or degree, from that imparted to Moses and the Prophets. In the one, it was immediately suggestive of prophetic predictions. In the other, it was confined, to the power of recording their predictions, in such appropriate expressions, as should afterward accord with the precise terms and phrasology of the New Testament. Perhaps it bore some resemblance to that miraculous gift, bestowed on some of the early believers, which consisted “in the interpretation of tongues”—We have no desire to magnify these interpreters into prophets. The wisdom imparted to them was sufficient for their work.—Ὡς αἱ ἡμέραι σου, ἢ ἰσχύς σου.—It is always dangerous, to call in supernatural influence, beyond the immediate exigence.

But, after every due limit, respecting the extent of Divine assistance granted to the Alexandrian translators, has been made, we arrive at this conclusion ;—that it was sufficient to enable them, to make such a version, as was worthy of Jesus and the Apostles continually to quote—nay, such as was ordained, to provide for the whole doctrinal phraseology of the New Testament. Their inspiration was verbal, because they were interpreters, and not prophets. But that verbal inspiration was designed, to accord with the far higher inspiration of the New Testament writers, who were chiefly confined to their

words, thoughts and expressions. It is on this theory only, I submit, that the verbal Inspiration of the Evangelists and Apostles can be rendered consistent or intelligible.*

There is something wonderfully harmonious, when we review the different stages of Divine Inspiration, as consecutively exhibited in the Hebrew text, in the Version of the LXX, and in the New Testament. The Hebrew was a sacred language, and it is probable, that the Inspiration of Moses and the Prophets was principally *real* and *suggestive*. "They spake, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."—The Inspiration of the Greek translators was *verbal*. It enabled them to adopt such words and expressions, as might subsequently form the vocabulary of the New Testament.—The Inspiration of the New Testament was of the highest order, it was *both real and verbal*. It related alike to thoughts and words, but the *words* were taken from the LXX.—On these mysterious subjects, I would speak with the deepest reverence and humility. This theory is submitted to the candid consideration of the Christian Church; but it is submitted, with a deep conviction, that it will be found alike accordant with the spirit and letter of Sacred Scripture.†

"*To the Jews,*" says St. Paul to the Romans, "*were committed the Oracles of God.*" The question is, whether the Apostle did not here include the Jews of the Dispersion, as well as those of Palestine—the many, who read the Greek Septuagint, as well as the few, who read

* See Appendix, No. 15.

† Ibid.

exclusively the Hebrew Scriptures. He uses the term *λόγια*, *Oracula*, which is frequently adopted by the LXX, to denote the Sacred Scriptures. He was addressing the Christian converts in Italy, where none could read the Scriptures of the Old Testament, but in the Greek of the LXX, or in the Latin of its most ancient version, *the Italic*.

Nearly all his other Epistles are addressed to Christians who resided in Greece, or in Asia Minor. Whether converted Jews, or believing Gentiles, they were nearly in the same predicament, in regard to language. When they read the Old Testament Scriptures, they must have read them, either in the LXX, or in some Latin version, translated from the LXX. "What saith the *Scripture*?" says St. Paul to the Romans, cap. iv. 5. "What says the *Scriptures*," says St. Paul to the Galatians? iii. 6, in both passages, quoting the very words of the LXX.—Is it possible, then, to doubt, that the Greek, as well as the Hebrew Scriptures, are to be understood, when they are thus mentioned by the Apostle—*the Apostle of the Gentiles*?

Consider the address of St. James, *To the Twelve tribes, scattered abroad* in the Dispersion, i. e. to all Jewish converts, but those residing in Palestine. These were notoriously using the Greek version in their Synagogues. There is not a single quotation in this Epistle, which is not taken from the LXX.—Could they believe, that, when the *Holy Scriptures* were spoken of, that very Version, which they had so long adopted, and which had brought them to Christianity, was not included under this title?

St. Peter addresses his first Epistle, *to the strangers*

scattered throughout *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia (Minor) and Bithynia*. These were the Hellenistic converts to Christianity, the first-fruits of the Church. The Greek language was very widely diffused amongst them, though doubtless, every nation had some vernacular dialect of its own. It is an acknowledged fact, that, the Septuagint was commonly used amongst all these Asiatic Churches, and that they could not read or understand the Hebrew Scriptures. Accordingly, both the Epistles of Peter abound with references and allusions to numerous passages in the LXX.—Could they construe such references and allusions, in any other sense, than as avouching the Biblical authority of that Version?

The Epistle to the Hebrews (whether written by Paul, or some other Apostle), is perhaps more full of quotation and reference to the Septuagint, than any other portion of the New Testament. It is a kind of *mosaic*, composed of bits and fragments of the LXX. It is only equalled, in this respect, by the speech of Stephen, before the Jewish Council, which forms a compendium of the Old Testament, drawn up in Septuagintal extracts.—Now, I would ask any impartial judge, whether, such numerous citations, from the Greek version of the Old Testament, do not warrant us in receiving it, as of Scriptural and Canonical authority? *All* the quotations from the Old Testament, in the Acts, as Dr. Davidson remarks,* are taken from the LXX. They amount to more than fifty.

There is one portion of the New Testament still remaining to be mentioned—On account of its obscure and

* Introduction, vol. ii. p. 64.

mysterious subject, *the Apocalypse* was the last admitted into the Canon, and was long supposed to be extremely unlike all other books of the New Testament, even in its phraseology. But this is totally to misrepresent its character. There is no part of the New Testament, which is so completely wrought out of the Old, as *The Revelation* of St. John. Though there are no formal quotations, no direct notices, like those, *The Scripture saith, Thus it is written, &c.* yet it is almost entirely composed of verbal allusions to the Prophets, and these allusions are invariably clad in Septuagintal forms of expression.

There are a few remarkable passages, to which I would solicit the attention of the reader. *I was in the Spirit*, says St. John, *on the Lord's day*, in the island of Patmos. This was a small island in the Ægean, one of the Cyclades, of which, Delos was the most eminent. It is not probable there was ever a word of Hebrew read, or spoken, in that island. As a proof of this assertion, we may notice, that the Hebrew word *Abaddon* is interpreted by the Greek *Apollyon*, for it would have been otherwise unintelligible.—Now, St. John, *being in the Spirit*, acting under the immediate influence of Divine Inspiration, selects the first and final letter of the Greek alphabet, as a substitute for the word *Jehovah*. He also addresses distinct Letters to the Churches of Asia Minor, in which, nothing but the LXX could have been understood, in reading the Scriptures. We ask, whether, the adoption of the Greek letters Α Ω, for the sacred and unutterable τετραγράμματος of the ancient Jews, would not suggest to every convert, Jewish or Gentile, that the

Greek language was now raised to a level with the Hebrew, even on the most sacred and mysterious subjects?*

Let us not refuse to dwell on these particulars, because we are bound, if possible, to apologise for the early Christians, in their high honour and reverence of the Septuagint. We are bound to support them, on a question, involving the purity of their Canon, and the safety of our own. It is a question of infinite importance, in the history and records of Christianity. It is a discussion, which cannot be long slighted or evaded. If Christians will not satisfactorily adjust these differences, infidels will step forward to proclaim and aggravate the anomaly. —*Hoc Ithacus velit.*

The safety and stability of the Canon of the Old Testament, depends on its having come down to us, in unbroken succession, from the Jewish to the Christian Church, in the same documents, read and explained in public worship. Now, during the first 400 years, if we reject this Greek version, the whole Christian Church held a false Canon. It did not, indeed, deny the Hebrew to be the original and authentic record; but it held also to the Greek version, and felt that it was authorised so to do, by the sanction of Christ and his Apostles. Should we cast off this version, from entering into our Canon, we declare the primitive Church, to have been in error, and we must abide the perilous consequences of such a declaration. It is on this ground, that I rest my Apology

* Appendix, No. 13.

for the Canonical claims of the LXX.—I appeal to the sanction of the primitive Church.*

With respect to the far more important, though essentially united, question, its claims to Scriptural authority, they should be tried solely, by an examination of its citation in the New Testament. We are quite content to rest the issue, on this Scriptural foundation. If it can be shown that these citations from the LXX are not inspired, or do not imply the Inspiration of that version, from which they are taken; then the question will be at rest, as far as believers are concerned.—Still, it will never satisfy the unbeliever. It will remain a lasting objection to the authenticity of the New Testament. It will remain a lasting stumbling-block to those, “*who are without.*”

Nor can it be denied, that the objections of such unbelievers are of the most grave and serious character. The authenticity of the Old and New Testament is so blended and united, by the quotations of the former in the latter, that they must stand or fall together. But those quotations are, for the most part, made directly from the LXX, and in their own words and expressions. They pledge the Evangelists and Apostles, to their exact force and meaning. If you receive them, as authoritative and inspired, you secure the stability of the Old Testament, as well as of the New; but if you accept them, as taken from a merely human version, you shake the authority of both.

Hence it has been the general opinion, that it is the best and shortest method of proving the authenticity of the

* Appendix, N.11.

Old Testament, to rest it on the attestations given to it, by Christ and the Apostles. We then assume the Inspiration and authenticity of the New Testament, and on that assumption, we infer the authenticity of the Old. But no such assumption can hold good, unless the full Inspiration of the citations and appeals to the Old Testament, be definitively granted. Now these, we repeat, are principally in the words and language of the LXX. Unless, therefore, you assume the Divine authority of the LXX, you cannot make good this argument. And thus the shortest and readiest mode of proving the authority of the Old Testament, is necessarily lost.

But if, quitting party and prejudice, we endeavour heartily to associate the Hebrew original with the Greek version,—if, foregoing the disputes of Jerome and Austin, of Walton and Hody, of Morinus and Vossius—we seek to establish the Canon of the Jewish, the Hellenistic, and the primitive Church, on one standard—then, we should compose and harmonize all differences, and we might boldly challenge the infidel to find any assailable breach in our bulwarks. The Hebrew would still retain its essential prerogative—it would be venerated as the parent-stock, not only of the LXX, but also of the Greek Testament. Its study would be indissolubly associated with its sacred offspring. We should then no longer behold that study, the covert and hiding-place of mysticism and neology. The Septuagint would resume its proper station, as the medium of intercourse between the Old and New Testament—the bond of union between the Jew and Gentile. The citations in the Evangelists and Apostles,

whether from the Hebrew or Greek, would at once be received, as of equivalent authority. The Canon of the primitive Church would be justified, and our apparent discord with the Greek Church would gradually melt into mutual harmony.

Perhaps, it may be thought fanciful, to anticipate the conversion of the Jews to the Christian faith, through the medium of the Greek version of the Old Testament. But as this was the channel, by which their forefathers were brought to the knowledge of Christianity, so it is, by no means improbable, that, in the fulness of time, the residue of Israel may be taught to value and understand the New Testament, through their study of that Version, which was so much esteemed by the early Rabbins. The idiom of the LXX would find a ready interpreter in their minds and feelings, and when they discovered, that the New Testament was formed of corresponding phraseology, they would more readily embrace its doctrinal interpretation of their ancient Scriptures.*

The attempts which have been made, both in early and later times, since the Reformation, to circulate modern Hebrew versions of the New Testament amongst the Jews, have never been attended with any considerable success. The cause of this failure may be easily accounted for. First, the natural prejudice of reading such a record, translated into Hebrew by Christians, is far too strong to be often overcome. Secondly, the modern Hebrew must always appear faulty and imperfect, and unworthy of a divine record. Thirdly, the citations, being

* See Allix On the Ancient Jewish Church.

chiefly taken from the LXX, will always appear to a modern unconverted Jew, translated on purpose to inveigle him. This prejudice can never be overcome, until the more learned of the modern Rabbins can be brought again to consult that version, which was so long read in their Synagogues, and which is so highly commended by some of their most learned ancestors. It is this prejudice against the LXX, which forms the great obstacle to their reading the Greek Testament; and till this obstacle be surmounted, there is little hope of their conversion to Christianity.—When that difficulty is overcome, the Christian Church will behold “the veil taken away,” “the middle wall of partition broken down,” and every prejudice against the Gospel removed from the Jewish mind.

This blessed Millennium, I cannot hope to witness, this land of promise, I cannot hope to enter.—But it is my firm belief, the time will come, when the Jewish and Christian Canon will be arranged, in perfect harmony, with that of the primitive Christian Church—when there will no longer remain any controversy concerning the Hebrew and the Septuagint, and when both will be brought into perfect union with the New Testament. When *Ephraim shall not vex Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim*, this union will be accomplished. *He shall set up an ensign to the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah, from the four corners of the earth.* The ensign may probably be the same as that, which sounded the trumpet, at the approach of Christianity.—Jesus will be owned to be

the Jehovah of the Hebrews, when he is perceived to have been the Lord God of the Hellenists; when, with united testimonies, they shall proclaim Him—*The First and Last* of Isaiah, *The Alpha and the Omega* of St. John.

But, it is important to remember, that it is not indispensable to the general conclusion, to pledge ourselves individually to any specific opinions, on several disputable and uncertain points, which have been incidentally touched on, in the course of this enquiry. Whether, *e. g.* you believe, that our Lord conversed with his disciples chiefly, in Aramean, or in Greek; whether you think the knowledge of Greek was more, or less, prevalent in Judea; whether you admit an Aramean, or Greek original of St. Matthew—these are, doubtless, interesting and important questions. But, however determined, they can have no essential influence on the argument. It will only add, or subtract, a link in the chain of inquiry.

If you believe, with Diodati and many others, that Jesus invariably used the Greek language, it will not surely diminish your respect for the phraseology of the LXX, nor indispose you to acknowledge its claims to Divine authority.—If, on the other hand, you believe, according to our representation, that he spoke chiefly in the provincial dialect, and that the Syro-Chaldaic was subsequently transferred into Greek, under the superintendence of the Holy Spirit; the same conclusion will equally ensue. The selection of that peculiar phraseology, which distinguishes the LXX, as the vehicle of Divine Inspiration, will communicate that Inspiration to the text, from which it emanates.—It is impossible to hint at all the shades of differ-

ence, in the opinions of men of learning and research, on these obscure and speculative topics; but it is satisfactory to know, such is the strength and comprehension of this argument, that it cannot be materially affected by any of these subordinate variations of opinion.

Nor is it indispensable, to credit the account of Aristeas. Suppose, with Hody, that account to be nothing more than a Jewish forgery, invented to aggrandise the influence of this version. It will not affect the fundamental facts—its great antiquity—its indubitable authenticity—its powerful influence in preparing the world for the advent of Christianity—its identity with the idiom of the New Testament—its numerous citations—its universal reception by the early Fathers, &c. Though the entire argument be cumulative, yet it is also, in some degree, a chain of connected links. In the one, you estimate its weight, in the other, its strength and beauty.—Make your choice.—Much will depend on previous enquiries, much on the natural complection of your mind. But to a calm, honest, and deliberate enquirer, the result will be much the same. He will be led, by the same current, to the same haven, he will acknowledge the united and associate authority of the Hebrew and the Septuagint, as the texture of the Old Testament Canon.

As regards the general state of the text of the LXX, it would appear, from the late researches of Holmes and Parsons, to be much on a parity, with that of the Hebrew of the Old Testament, or the Greek of the New.* After

* Appendix No. 7.

the collation of many thousand manuscripts, the general result is the same in all. There are numerous deviations, occasioned by the errors of transcribers, but they seldom affect the sense. As to the general authenticity of the LXX, though it was suspected by Justin to have been corrupted by the Jews, the charge was never proved, nor is it, in any degree, credible. The Jews could have no wish, before the Christian era, to corrupt this version; and they could have no power, afterwards.—Archbishop Usher had a strange hypothesis, that the Original version was destroyed by the fire of the Pharos, and that a second was made about the time of Cleopatra. But his hypothesis was never received with any favour. See Grabe's Proleg. tom. ii. Prop. 1.—That our present text of the LXX is the same as that, which is so repeatedly quoted in the New Testament, and the same as that, which Philo has inlaid with his numerous treatises on the Old Testament, is as plain as any fact, which can be set before us.

It forms no part of this Apology, to account for the many and important discrepancies, which exist between the Hebrew text and the Alexandrian version. The attempt has been often made, especially by Capellus, in his *Critica Sacra*; but never with any generally satisfactory result. That the LXX translated from unpointed MSS. is almost certain, and many of these discrepancies may be explained, on that supposition. Still, a large number of transpositions, omissions, and some additions will remain unaccounted for.—That many of these were coeval with the era of Christianity, is plain, from the citations in the New Tes-

tament, which occasionally verify them.—They cannot be fairly urged against the Scriptural authority of the LXX, wherever they are thus supported by Divine authority. But even where this cannot be adduced, there are many passages, in which, it is granted, that the reading of the LXX is better, than that of our present Masoretic text, whilst a still larger number of Septuagintal difficulties may be obviated, by following the Hebrew.* The result to every impartial mind is this — that they mutually require the friendly aid and assistance of each other; and that, by this friendly co-operation, they combine in forming the only complete and satisfactory Canon of the Old Testament.

These occasional discrepancies between the Hebrew archetype and the Greek version, are, after all, somewhat analogous to the difficulties, which we find on many other points of Divine Revelation. Suppose it had been possible, that the version should have been so plain and literal, as not to admit of any disputes; the Hebrew would then, probably, have sunk into entire neglect. There could have been no motive to enter on its study.—But the supposition is unnatural. However plain and literal the version might have been, so long as human minds are differently constituted, there must have been ample scope for difference of opinion. Without a miracle, the Hebrew could never have been made to us, as intelligible as the Greek. Suppose the miracle to have made them, in all respects, alike, and of equal authority; one of them

* Grabii Proleg. tom. 11. §§ 26-33.

in all probability would have perished. Witness the Hebrew original of Matthew, or the Hebrew archetype of Josephus's "Jewish Wars."

Our writers on the Canon, I am aware, are accustomed to confine their labours, to enumerating merely the *names* of the several books, and consider they have proved their point, when they have established their precise number. But, it is as much essential to the Canon, to show the quality, as the quantity of the record. The early Christian Church, by using the LXX for the first 400 years in their public worship, established that version, *de facto*, as canonical. If we set aside that version, as secular and uninspired, we no longer hold to this early Canon. When we appeal to the authority of the primitive Church, and cite the *names* of the books in their Canon; we only impose upon ourselves and others, if we affirm, that we hold the same Canon, unless we also support their sentiments, by including the Greek version, in our own.*

Though it be not essential, to read the version of the LXX in our public worship, yet we are bound to agree with them, in acknowledgment of its Scriptural and canonical authority. It is a breach, a schism, in ecclesiastical unity, to denounce as uncanonical in the modern Church, that which was proclaimed as canonical, in the primitive.

In the controversy on this subject, which was carried on between Cappellus and the younger Buxtorf,† the

* See Stuart on the Definition of the Canon. Sect. 2. Appendix xi.

† Buxtorfii Anti-Critic, p. 154. Basil, 1653.

former had charged the exclusive advocate of the Hebrew text, with holding the primitive Church in contempt, and treating it, as neglected and cast off by God, from being confined to the Septuagintal text of the Old Testament. To this Buxtorf replies, that he, by no means, went to this extreme; but that he was of opinion, it was a special blessing to the later Church, that it was indulged with a knowledge of the Hebrew text and language. Now, thus far I am most anxious to join him, but no further. I cannot admit, that the LXX ceases to be of spiritual and canonical authority, because we are blessed with the *additional* light of the Hebrew. Even as a question of mere human criticism, it may be doubtful, whether a version made, before the present masoretic text was formed, be not equal to it, in critical value. But, when that version has been hallowed and ratified, by its adoption in the New Testament, every doubt is removed. It then arises before us, stamped and countersigned with the same authority, as that which superintended the writings of Moses and the Prophets, of the Evangelists and Apostles.

For these and similar reasons, I cannot agree with the learned Professor Lee, in the low estimate which he has formed of the present state of the Septuagintal text. It never was designed, as Walton observes, for a strict and literal version of the Hebrew Bible. In some respects, it was a paraphrase, in others an abridgment, adapted to the peculiar circumstances of Hellenistic Jews and Gentiles proselytes; with an ulterior object of far greater extent and importance, to become the vestibule of the

New Testament. *Nullus dubito*, says the learned Professor,* *quin is, qui hanc versionem ad pristinum suum nitorem restitutum eat, viribus plusquam humanis præditus esse debuerit.* This supposed perfection of the original state of the Alexandrian version, as a perfect copy of the Hebrew text, I believe, to be altogether imaginary. That we have it much in the state, as it was in the Apostolic age, is evident alike from Philo, and the New Testament. It is also proved, from the collations of the MSS. which exhibit little more, than the errors of transcribers.† The Septuagint is the Hebrew Bible, modified to its appropriate objects, which are, in many respects, characteristic and peculiar. Its variations are, therefore, not always to be designated, as mistakes and blunders. I am credulous enough to believe with Augustine, that they are often intended for the most important purposes, and that they denote the *mind of the Spirit.*‡

This question, when deliberately considered, will be found to be quite as important, as that, concerning the Apocryphal writings. It affects at once the interpretation of the Old, and the inspiration of the New Testament. If the LXX be not of Scriptural authority, then we have no right to apply that version, either to the correction of the text, or to the right understanding of any obscure passages in the Hebrew Bible. But its importance, with respect to the authority and Inspiration of the New Testament, is of still greater moment. I need not reiterate the

* Proleg. Polyglott. Bagst. p. 56. § 19.

† Appendix, No. 7.

‡ Appendix, No. 15.

various arguments already adduced. They tend to this general inference, that if the authority of the LXX be not assumed as sacred and divine, it will be very hazardous to assert the plenary Inspiration of the New Testament.

A short and easy method may be adopted to test this conclusion. Let an English New Testament be printed, in which, all the citations from the LXX shall be given in *Italics*. It will then be in the power of every reader, to estimate the *quantum* of Septuagintal matter, contained in the New Testament; and thence to infer the degree of importance which he ought to attach, to this plain and visible incorporation.

But, in defining this distinction of Septuagintal matter, it is only fair, that, all the passages, in which the words of the New Testament exactly or substantially agree with the LXX, (however they may agree with the Hebrew), should be put down, to the Greek version. There has been much unfairness, I am sorry to observe, in computing the comparative number of citations, as relative to the Hebrew, or Greek, Old Testament. It has been usual, whenever they agree with both, to strike them off from the Septuagint, and to put them down to the opposite column. But it is clear, that, when the *Greek* words are the same, or nearly the same, they ought to be attributed to the *Greek* version. The Hebrew, in such instances, is clearly more remote from the Greek Testament, than the Alexandrian version, which contains the *ipsissima verba*.*

* Appendix, No. 2.

When we collate Greek with Greek, we can detect the nicest variations of expression, and enter into the minutest shades of meaning; but when we collate Greek with Hebrew, it becomes a very different task. We then collate two languages, which have no cognate connexion. It is seldom we can so far identify the exact import of any Hebrew word, as to assert, that it *exactly* tallies with the corresponding word in Greek. Hence arises the difficulty of determining, how far any quotation agrees, or disagrees, with the Hebrew. Whereas, it is a plain matter of fact and vision, whether it agrees, or not, with the LXX.

It would be needless to make such remarks, if the existing prejudice against the Septuagint, under the perverse notion of exalting the Hebrew, did not compel me to undertake its defence and apology. "There is not a page, nor even a paragraph of any considerable length," says Professor Stuart,* "which does not bear the impress of the Old Testament upon it.—There are thousands of expressions and thoughts, in the New Testament, modelled after the Old Testament, to which I have made no reference."—Now, I again submit, whether it be fair or candid, in such observations, to make an *exclusive* reference to the Hebrew text, and to pass by that Greek version, in which, the identical words, and expressions, are found? How could we have determined the exact meaning and import of such thoughts and expressions, if they had not been translated out of Hebrew into Greek,

* On the Canon, p. 315.

and then verbally appropriated and ratified, by the authority of the Evangelists and Apostles?*

The result of casting aside the LXX, and endeavouring to interpret the Hebrew, by the aid of comparatively modern cognate dialects, is now sufficiently manifest, in the strange and grotesque efforts of German and North-American Neologists. Such interpretations are calculated to destroy all respect and veneration of the sacred records. Witness the writings of Norton, of Strauss, of Ewald, Eichhorn, or Gesenius, and compare them with the *Prolegomena* of Walton or Montfaucon, with the *Lexicon* of Castell, or the writings of Lightfoot, or even, with the more modern literature of Ernesti, Dathe, or Michaelis. Let us not discourage or denounce any sober and temperate improvement of theological studies. But, when infidelity and scepticism are the consequences of pursuing Biblical researches; it is full time to pause, and consider the origin of this strange result.—How is it, that the most sacred studies have recently so often led to the most unholy, unscriptural, and infidel conclusions?†

But, even when these pursuits are not pushed to such disastrous extremes, it may be reasonably doubted, whether they can practically promote the real knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures. The value of Biblical learning must consist chiefly, in its certainty and precision; but

* See extracts from Bp. Pearson, Appendix, No. 8.

† Appendix, No. 16.

there can be no certainty or precision, when the study of language is confounded with metaphysical speculation. Ingenious theories, based on merely subjective principles, have no connexion with studies, which relate to sound and sober theological investigation. It is on matters of fact, not on mental theories, that our Biblical researches should depend. If you contrast the learning and acquirements of our elder Divines, with those which distinguish the disciples of Schelling or Coleridge, you will be at no loss to understand the difference. In the one, you have the solid realities of daily life; in the other, the dreamy visions of distempered imagination. The theology of our forefathers was founded on fact and history; that of their descendants is sentimental and poetical, and consequently, often fanciful and fictitious.

Now, this difference may, in a great measure, be traced, I apprehend, to our neglect of that Greek version, which forms the chief bond of union between the study of the Old and New Testament, and which imparts a solidity to that study, that it otherwise cannot possess. The Bible being one whole, is so constituted, as to form its own best interpreter. The Hebrew text is best explained by the LXX, and the LXX by the Hebrew, whilst both derive their truest and strongest light, from the New Testament. If you neglect, or disparage any one of these instruments, you injure and endanger the whole. *If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.**

The position of the LXX, as a *version* made by men,

* See Grabe's Prolegomena, tom. ii prop. vii.

inferior to the rank of prophets, is naturally the most exposed to attack. Though it may seem, at first sight, the weakest and most vulnerable, it forms the centre of the camp. It is a version, but the strength and honour which it has derived, from being incorporated with the New Testament, raise it to its full and legitimate standard, as an Archetype. Whatever be its apparent imperfections or blemishes, they are lost in the glory of its being owned and adopted by Jesus and the Apostles. If even the version of Isaiah, which is deemed the most unworthy of the LXX, be worthy of repeated citation in the New Testament, it cannot surely be despised or rejected by any Christian commentator.

But, if the suggestion which I have ventured to bring forward in this Apology be correct, *that Jesus himself was taught as a child, from the version of the LXX*; it should silence every murmur against it, and subdue every discontented emotion to its power and authority. All other arguments look poor, feeble, and unaffecting, compared to the example of Him, who deigned to sanction and commend it, to the especial attention of his followers. Whilst this suggestion is incomparably affecting, it strengthens and corroborates every other in its train. It explains the citations of the Evangelists and Apostles, as taken chiefly from this version. It accounts for the canon of the primitive Church. It harmonises every difficulty, nay, converts every difficulty, into another evidence. As a mere hypothesis, it is deserving of the most serious attention. It is so credible, that it commends itself, with-

out any laborious research, and so natural, that when once conceived, it can scarcely be forgotten.*

To estimate the value of the LXX version fairly and impartially, we should consider the express objects and purposes, for which it was designed. It was not designed to display the glories of the Jewish theocracy, nor to perpetuate the distinction between the Jew and Gentile. It was intended, as the herald of "the better covenant." Its predominant value consisted, in its ulterior relation to the Christian faith, and in drawing that relationship more closely, than could have been effected by the original text. As a *version*, it was adapted to that transition-state, in which it was composed. Like the ministry of John, it was the herald and harbinger of better tidings. *It was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.* Had it been more perfect, as a literary composition, perhaps it would not have accomplished the object of its mission.

The Hebrew text will ever retain its own essential and indestructible value. Imagine it to have perished, and neither the Septuagint, nor the Greek Testament, could command our consent. As the original *Magna Charta* of Revelation, that record is sublimely unique. But as the Mosaic economy, with all its glories, was destined to pass away; so the knowledge of the Hebrew language was ordained to suffer an eclipse, when the beams of the Sun of Righteousness began to dawn upon the darkened Gentile. The morning-star was the Hellenistic version.

* Appendix No. 17.

It created twilight amidst the surrounding gloom. Despise it not, for its apparent verbal imperfections. It is those imperfections, which connect it with the style and phraseology of the Evangelists and Apostles. Above all, despise it not, because it is a *version*. It is only as a version, that it could reflect light, on the Hebrew of the Old, or on the Greek of the New, Testament.*

The importance of plainness and precision in a written revelation, it should be remembered, is of a very different order and magnitude, than that, which can attach to a merely human composition. Whether we correctly understand any passage of Plato or Aristotle, is comparatively of no value, when estimated by such a standard. Thus, for example, when it is asserted by the latter, that Tragedy purifies the mind by the emotion of pity—we may acquiesce in academic doubt respecting its exact import, and be content to flutter round the meaning, without arriving at any clear and distinct opinion. So all the disputes of commentators, respecting the exact meaning of *ἐντελέχεια*, may be viewed as of little consequence, in the present state of philosophic speculation. But it is not so, with the words and doctrines of a Revelation, professing to come immediately from Heaven. Every doctrinal word, in such a record, then becomes of the highest and most imperishable value. We require a key, which may unlock its hidden meaning, which may convey to us its original force, and transfer it whole and unimpaired. The “Holy Spirit” is doubtless the highest teacher, but that Divine

* See Dean Graves on the Pentateuch. Lect. v. Part. III. Sect. 2.

Spirit operates through the Holy Scriptures, and therefore it is of inestimable importance, that we should attain to the pure and unadulterated import of the *written* word. Admit the inspired authority of the Septuagint, and you possess exactly the medium required for this Divine assistance.—It is the doctrinal lexicon of the New Testament.

This observation will apply, in an especial manner, to many of those quotations in the New Testament, which do not exactly agree with the literal meaning of the Hebrew text. In the Greek version, the literal import of the legal or sacrificial ceremonial terms is seldom exactly translated. A more general and less definite word is often substituted. This has been frequently urged, as an objection to the LXX, both by converted and unconverted Jews, and also by many exclusive advocates of the Hebrew text. But the Septuagint was designed, not merely as a version of the Old Testament, but as a doctrinal introduction to the New. It was designed to change the Hebrew into the Hellenist, by gradually enlarging his conceptions. When the Apostle speaks of the *letter*, as opposed to the *spirit*, when he speaks of “the beggarly elements,” or of “Sinai, which gendereth to bondage,” it is probable, that he alludes to this marked distinction between that Version which he quoted, and that Original, which he passed by.—Certain at least it is, that if the strictly literal and ceremonial language of the Hebrew text had been always depicted in the Greek version, it would not have formed that doctrinal vocabulary to the New Testament, which now constitutes its highest value.

This sentiment was felt and acknowledged by our forefathers, by such men, as Walton, Pearson, Grabe, and Pocock, nay, even by Archbishop Usher, who, though in some degree, unfriendly to the LXX, yet has candidly admitted its high claims to authority: *Negari non potest, tum ex Hellenistarum et primitivorum Christianorum illo consensu, tum ex Apostolicâ hâc συγκαταβέσει, ad Græcam istam editionem, magnum auctoritatis pondus accessisse.* Syntagm. cap. 3, p. 29.—Yet, so little is this version now esteemed, that it is never considered of canonical authority. To hint at its inspiration, is to awaken a smile of scorn and contempt. Nay, its citation in the New Testament is ranked by M. Gaussen, amongst the difficulties of Christianity, and the objections of unbelievers!

Is it to be wondered, that the science of modern theology should exhibit a very ambiguous aspect, when such a breach has been effected in the Canon of the sacred Scriptures? To divest the Septuagint of its Scriptural rank and dignity, is to inflict the deepest injury on the study both of the Old, and the New, Testament. It is to deprive our Canon of its syllogistic force. In the Old, it leaves us without rudder or compass, to track our devious course to a language, which ceased to be vernacular more than 700 years before the Christian era. In the New, it resigns us to a style of Greek, which was never heard of, but in connexion with the Hebrew idiom. Neglect or undervalue the LXX, and you have thrown away the key, to unlock this sacred treasury. Should you attempt, without that aid and guide, to bring a Hebrew word to illustrate a doctrinal term in the New Testament,

you may affix to it almost any meaning.—The terms *righteousness, faith, repentance, atonement, justification, sanctification, Redeemer, Holy Spirit*, may be heightened or lowered, almost indefinitely. The most sacred titles may become secular. Thus doubt and obscurity will perplex all your studies.

Hence we infer, that, much of the wild disorder and confusion, which now reigns amongst continental Hebraists, may be traced to their departure from the primitive Church, in her love and veneration of the LXX version. That immense gulf, which intervenes between the Hebrew and Greek, wherein the leviathan learning of Germany now loves to take her sport and pastime, was then safely and quietly navigated, by the light of the Alexandrian Pharos. This light conducted the mariner to and fro from Egypt to Jerusalem, and it securely enabled him to hazard all the perils of the Ægæan and Adriatic.* To drop the figure—it was the Septuagint, which constituted the beacon, by which, our elder divines traversed the history of Moses and the Patriarchs. It is the same beacon, which must still conduct us to that distant haven. If we attempt to substitute ingenious speculations, or learned etymologies, we shall only be deceived by our own *mirage*, and “follow after our own inventions.”

The moral effect of relying chiefly on a version, made by Divine authority, or of attempting to decipher the most ancient of languages, by the appliances of modern

* See Gregory's learned and curious Discourse On the LXX Interpreters, in his Posthumous Works. Lond. 1664.

discoveries in philology, will produce a very different result on the mind and habits of the Biblical student. In the one case, we feel bold and independent, and not a little elated by our discoveries, whether real or imaginary. *Knowledge puffeth up.*—In the other, we are humble, and ready to yield to that superior teaching, which cometh from above. We do not mean to imply any prostration of human faculties, but there is an awe and docility which are peculiarly requisite in the study of the Holy Scriptures, without which, the head will act independently of the heart.—We cannot urge this, as a *direct* argument, because it assumes the point at issue, viz. the Divine authority of the Greek version. But, it will find its echo in every serious and reflecting mind. It tends to intimate the existence of some inspired instrument. It tends to prove, that we are not left without a sacred interpreter, to guide and aid us to understand the Word of God.

The Holy Scriptures revolve on their own axis. They do not disdain indirect assistance, from secular investigations; but they mainly depend on their own inexhaustible treasures and resources. To connect the Hebrew of the Old Testament, with the Greek, of the New, the version of the LXX is indispensable; and be our scholarship what it may, without this aid, we have lost that sacred *amalgam* which is essential to their unity.

The study of the Word of God can never be safely or successfully prosecuted, by the study of the word of man. It must begin, and terminate, in itself. In other words, it must be its own interpreter.—Now, this interpreter, both of the Old and New Testament, is personified in the

Septuagint, because it relates equally to both records.—Its citations connect it with Evangelists and Apostles; whilst it belongs to Moses and the Prophets, as their inseparable companion.

Hence it is, that the writers of the New Testament principally resort to the LXX, in their quotations; not, that they designed to undervalue the Original, but to bring that Original into contact with the Gospel. Hence it is, that their whole vocabulary is composed of Septuagintal words and phrases; because it was destined to bring the Jew and the Christian into the same fold.*—Whilst the Israelites were treated, as a separate and distinct people, the Hebrew language was their peculiar badge and distinction. It was an admirable language for keeping them apart from other nations. But, when that purpose was accomplished, the Hebrew was melted down into the Greek of the LXX—still retaining its own characteristics, under Greek symbols. These symbolic characteristics are countersigned, recognised, and ratified on every page of the Greek Testament.

Throughout this entire process, we may discern the finger of God, and the impress of Divine inspiration. It brings down to us the most ancient of languages in a living form, but that form is peculiar to the Bible.—It is the Hebrew, softened into Hellenistic Greek. The interpreter is the Septuagint.—If we desert and forego that interpreter, we are left to the traditions of Jews, or to the study of hieroglyphics.

* Appendix, No. 15.

It is seldom considered by the exclusive advocates of the Hebrew text, that it depends entirely on our remaining knowledge of that language, whether we are competent to study it, apart from the LXX. It is of little use to magnify its superior dignity as the Original, unless we can prove, that we have the means of interpreting that Original, without the Version. That we can read and understand Greek, by its own transparent light, is a fact which no one can deny. The number of the authors, the amount of its glossaries and lexicons, all vouch for its accurate tradition and development. But it is not so with a language, which is confined to a moderately sized volume, which is the most ancient in the world, which has ceased to be vernacular for nearly 2400 years.—It is true, that nothing can please an ambitious, or inventive mind, more than groping into cognate dialects, or excogitating theories of universal grammar. But these are very poor substitutes for interpretations, founded on the most ancient of versions. They lead the mind away from calm and patient investigation, to a state of doubt and scepticism, which is altogether unfavourable to the student of Divine revelation.

Hence it is, that we hear of the myths and allegories, “the Gorgons, Hydras, and Chimeras dire,” of the German and American commentators, who scarcely condescend, even to mention the Alexandrian version. Its study, in connection with the Hebrew text, would serve to restrain their excesses, and to act as a barrier and bulwark against their overwhelming speculations.—

Such Learning, hoodwinked first, and then beguil'd,
Looks dark as Ignorance, as Fancy, wild.—

Nor is it probable, that we shall return to the sober and solid erudition of our forefathers, till we return to their reverence and esteem of this sacred record. Look into the *Preces Privatæ* of the learned and excellent Bishop Andrews, and you will soon discover, how intimately he was conversant with the language of the LXX. Turn to the marginal references, in the masterly sermons of Bishop Sanderson, you will find him not less its student and admirer. Nay, I am bound to acknowledge, that Mr. Scott in his Commentary, has proved himself a worthy pupil of the same Alexandrian masters. In the course of my Septuagintal labours, I have examined all his marginal references to the Old Testament, and found them chiefly illustrated by the text of the LXX.

The University of Oxford has done itself great honour, in exemplifying this comprehensive and catholic regard to the primitive Canon of the Old Testament, by setting forth the Hebrew Bible of Kennicott, and more recently, the Septuagint of Holmes and Parsons. But it still remains a *desideratum*, to behold the Greek Version raised to its proper rank, as a prominent object of academical study. Surely it is not too much to expect, that public prelections should be statedly given on this subject, from the chair of some of the Professors; and that it should be introduced into every college, as a branch of tutorial instruction. Nor should the Septuagint be passed over, in the public examinations in our Universities; still less, in the Episcopal examinations for Holy Orders. It is much to the honour of the learned Bishop Maltby, that he has raised the study of the LXX, in the

University of Durham, to a distinct topic of examination. I have reason to know, that it occupies a considerable portion of attention, in many of the theological dissenting academies.—It would be no disgrace for Oxford or Cambridge, to pursue the same course, in their theological arrangements.

The late eminent Doctor Arnold introduced the reading of the LXX amongst the seniors at Rugby, and it is earnestly to be desired, that his example should be followed in all our public schools. That youths, intended expressly for Holy Orders, should be conversant with every variety of Greek, but that, in which the LXX and the New Testament are composed, is indeed a monstrous anomaly. Yet are there numbers, who can read off Lycophron and Pindar, construe the most difficult passages of Thucydides, unthread the maze of Greek Choruses, and compose elegant Greek and Latin verse, who have never once looked into that Version of the Ancient Scriptures, which forms the only correct and canonical introduction to the grammar and philology of the New Testament.

The introduction of the Septuagint, as connected with the Greek Testament, into the higher forms of our academical establishments, would be attended with peculiar advantage to the minds of those students, who are previously conversant with the elegances of classic literature. It would accustom them to understand the precise difference between classic and Hellenistic Greek.* It would temper their love and admiration of the poets, orators,

* Appendix, No. 8.

and historians of pagan antiquity, with the far higher esteem, which is due to the language of the “ prophets and holy men, who spake, as they were moved, by the Holy Ghost.” Without impairing classical taste, it would dispose them to love and admire the simple sublimity of the Inspired writers. They would involuntarily imbibe and cherish the humility of Christians, whilst they became conversant with the artless and simple style of Patriarchs, Evangelists, and Apostles.—To know how gracefully the highest classic attainments may blend with the admiration and study of Hellenistic lore; let them follow the example, and meditate the Prelections of Valckenaer.

His critical taste and classic attainments are acknowledged by every lover of Greek literature. He devoted the morning of his life, to the study of the LXX: “ *In Græcis istis Bibliis, dum juvena vigebam, à me diligenter tractatis, sexcenta possent similia demonstrari; sed quàm pauci hóc tempore talia sibi monstrari desiderarent.*”! Theoc. Eidyll. pp. 229, 230. Alas! that we must still mourn over the same indifference—but I should be unworthy even of mentioning his name, if I did not confess how much I am indebted to his Hellenistic labours.*

Let us not despair.—The time has arrived for a far more intimate study of patristic theology than existed in this country, during the last century. A deep attention to the Greek Fathers in particular, distinguishes the present age, and this must eventually lead to a more profound knowlege of that version, on which, all their interpretations of Scripture are based. Much as we may lament

* Appendix, No. 16.

to see this study occasionally perverted and abused, I rejoice to think, it must be overruled, to the great and paramount end of bringing back the Septuagint, to its proper and primitive standard of Scriptural authority.—The single consideration, that whoever neglects or undervalues this Version, departs from the faith and principles of the primitive Church, will ere long be sufficient to secure the restoration of those honours, which are now so unjustly withheld from the Hellenistic translators.

Let me stand excused therefore, for thus publicly espousing the cause of the early Christians, in their high esteem of this sacred Record. The learning of all the Greek Fathers is founded on the LXX; nor did the Latin Fathers, till a degenerate age, hold it in less estimation. The passions and prejudices of Jerome should not be allowed to counterbalance their combined authority; nor the subsequent value of the Vulgate, to depreciate the anterior value of the LXX.—*How should a Latin version, made 400 years after the Christian era, supersede the value of the Greek version, made 300 years before it?*—We totally pervert the interests and duties of sound Scriptural theology, if we seek to renew the old jealousies and disputes, respecting the comparative value and importance of the Hebrew text, and the LXX. Let the controversies of other days be buried in oblivion, or remembered only, to teach us moderation and sobriety. We have other, and far more important objects, to engage our attention. “The Books of the New Testament,” as Dr. Davidson remarks, in the Preface to his learned “Introduction,” “are destined ere long to pass through a severe

ordeal. Every thing, in the moral and literary elements, betoken an approaching storm, to try to the uttermost, the foundations of the Christian Church.”—As far as I can judge, our best “harbour of refuge” consists, in boldly acknowledging the Canon of the early Church, in all its amplitude. We must provide against the attacks of infidels and neologists, by avowing our hearty belief in the entire Inspiration of the Old and New Testament, not by abandoning the Septuagint, but combining it with the Hebrew Canon. We must defend the Inspiration of the New Testament, by fearlessly defending the Inspiration of that Record, from which it derives the great body of its citations, and all its doctrinal phraseology.

This cannot be effected, without considering the Greek version, as an essential element of the Canon, by identifying its Scriptural authority, with that of the Hebrew archetype. Separate and divide them, you will always have strife and discord in the Christian camp. One will exalt the version, another the original—nay, the Hebrew itself will become the ambush for our enemies. But, let them “walk together in the House of God, as friends,” let them aid each other in their difficulties, enjoy their mutual triumphs, and bring all their trophies to the illumination of the Gospel; and we may securely defy every effort of false learning and vain philosophy. The concentrated light of Inspiration will irradiate our Biblical researches. Even the difficulties and discrepancies, which may be found on our way, will only teach us that moderation and humility, which become fallible mortals, engaged in interpreting the Divine Oracles.

In the study of the Old Testament, there is confessedly much obscurity, and such ample scope for the indulgence of imagination and conjecture, that, apart from some authorised and Scriptural guide, we can hardly track our path through that labyrinth, to the land of Promise. True it is, that we have the New Testament in our hands, and by steadily comparing the New with the Old Dispensation, we may bring light out of darkness, and emerge from the types and shadows of the Law, to the glorious light and realities of the Gospel. But, as this transit is mainly accomplished, by citations and appeals to Patriarchs and Prophets, which are expressed in Septuagintal language; if we reject the Scriptural authority of the LXX, we are again thrown back, on all the obscurities of the Hebrew text. It is then, that imagination is taxed to supply the want of solid information, and that endless speculations are indulged, to fill up the gulph between the Hebrew, and the Greek Bible. The mind becomes elated by supposed discoveries, or depressed by surrounding difficulties, or unsettled by unceasing contradictions.

It is in this perilous and dubious twilight, that the Greek Version offers its friendly aid to all, who are not too proud and independent to welcome its succours. It offers to unveil the darkness of a language, which was spoken more than 4000 years ago. It brings that language into union with the writings of the New Testament. It cuts in twain the distance, by presenting us with a version 2000 years old. Thus, like the centre of an army, it sustains both the flanks, and its loss or safety, is, defeat or victory.

Such is the argument of this "Apology for the Septuagint." Whilst fearlessly declaring my own sentiments, I have endeavoured to give offence to no one, and to provoke no angry feelings. Let the question be discussed with calmness and impartiality, and I doubt not the Greek version of the Old Testament will gradually rise to its proper and original standard.

It has been the last confession of many excellent men, that they died, in the primitive and Catholic faith, before any schism had taken place between the Eastern and Western Churches. Nor am I unwilling to make that confession, my own. It has been the labour of my life to furnish the details, on which, this Apology is based, and I am thankful, that I have survived, to avow and vindicate its principles. It gives me heartfelt pleasure to reflect, that, in this my last effort to illustrate the evidence of Christianity, it has been my sole aim and object, to establish the Canon of the Old Testament, by the union of the Hebrew text, with the Septuagint version.

Fourteen hundred years have passed away, since that unhappy controversy arose between Austin and Jerome, which is not yet concluded. The most learned Divines and Scholars have taken different sides, in this controversy. Nothing will ever silence the claims of the LXX to Scriptural authority, whilst the majority of Citations in the New Testament can be identified with that Version. Nothing will satisfy men, who revere the authority of the primitive Church, but the recognition of its sanction. Nothing will degrade the Septuagint from its Canonical rank, if we believe, that Jesus himself was taught and educated

in its study. On the other hand, the Original, from its acknowledged obscurity, demands this co-operative aid.— Surely, then, this treaty of union and concord may be received in that spirit of peace and charity, in which it is proposed. We ask for no compromise of established opinions, for no introduction of Ecclesiastical innovations ; we seek not to exalt the LXX, or to depreciate the Hebrew ; we desire only that unity and integrity of alliance, which is alike essential to the peace of the Church, and to the safety of the Canon.

————— *paribus se legibus ambæ*
Invictæ gentes æterna in fœdera mittant.

DE hisce, prout potuimus, disputavimus. Accuratiùs harum rerum examen peritioribus linguæ Hebraicæ derelinquo. Quod enim alicubi de se agnoscit Erasmus, id de memet ingenue fateor ego atque etiam profiteor. In literis Hebraicis parum mihi vendico: utpote quas adhuc degustarim potius (si modo degustarim), quàm didicerim. Jure poscit hoc argumentum, non quamlibet cujuslibet operam, non tyrunculorum, aut etiam mediocriter doctorum, sed summam eorum qui primas in his literis tenent. Hodius De Vers. Græc. Pars. I. cap. 2. § 82.



APPENDIX.

No. 1.

FOR general information on the subject of the LXX, after the classical work of Hody, consult Bp. Walton's Ninth *Prolegomenon*. In this *Apology*, I wish to be considered, as maintaining the same opinions, as are therein laid down and established, with some slight modification of his sentiments concerning Aristeeus. It is a noble collection of every thing which is valuable, on this interesting subject. Whoever desires to become master of the points at issue between Augustine and Jerome, will thoroughly digest this admirable Dissertation.

For his favourable sentiments towards the LXX, Bp. Walton was violently attacked by the celebrated Dr. John Owen, whom he thus answers, in his "Considerator Considered," c. ix. § 15. "Of this translation, we have written at large, Proleg. ix. which, for its antiquity and hoary hairs, is most opposed by all Novelists, though it be proved, in the same Proleg. that it was publicly read in the Synagogues, for near 300 years before Christ; that our Saviour and the Apostles read it, and cited it more frequently than the Hebrew text, and thereby consecrated it to posterity; that by this translation chiefly, (which was by the Apostles left to the Church of Christ), the Church, especially among the Gentiles, was first gathered, and by it nourished and built up, and the world subdued to Christ; that, for many centuries no other translation, but this, and such as were made out of it (excepting the Syriac), was used in the Church, nor is any other used in the Greek Church to this day; that, this was that, which the Greek and Latin Fathers expounded, illustrated, out of which they instructed the people, confuted heresies, and main-

tained the truth; that this, which we now have, is the same for substance, with that universally used (though some things by the injury of time, and frequent transcriptions vitiated),” &c. The whole is well worthy of perusal, and with much else relating to the LXX, may be found in Todd’s Memoirs of Bp. Walton, vol. 2. See particularly p. 325, from which, I make the following extract: “That there was a translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, made in the time that the Ptolemies reigned in Egypt, is not to be doubted; for we still have the Book, and it is the same, which was in use in our Saviour’s time; for most of these passages which the holy penmen of the New Testament do, in the Greek original of it, quote out of the Old Testament are now found *verbatim*, in this version.” See Prideaux’s Connection, P. II. B. 1, and Dr. Mill on Heb. xiii. 25, *Scripturæ Vet. Test. non secundum Hebraicam Veritatem, quam vocant, sed LXX Interpp. (in hæc Epistolâ) perpetuò citatæ: et quidem iis in locis, in quibus, si reponerentur Hebræa, non modò periret vis argumentationis Apostolicæ, sed ne quidè ullus foret argumentationi locus.* The reader will do well to consult the learned *Prolegomena* to the 2d vol. of Grabe’s Septuagint, Oxon. 1719, in which, under twenty-four propositions, everything relating to the LXX, is learnedly and dispassionately discussed.

To those, who seek for further and more minute information, I would recommend the following sources:—Gregory’s History of the LXX. London, 1664. Father Simon’s “Critical History of the Old Testament, Book II. chapter 2,” beginning, “All Antiquity, till Jerome’s time, believed the Greek Septuagint translation was made by Prophets, and not by common translators.” From Du Pin’s Ecclesiastical History of the Fifth Century, much valuable information may be gained. He gives a fair and impartial account of the dispute between Jerome and Austin. In the Work of Isaac Vossius, *De LXX Interpp.* (Hagæ-com. 1661. Appendix, 1663), you will find, every thing, which a violent and imprudent partizan can urge, in favour of the Greek version; whilst in *Hulsii Vindic. Text. Hebr.* (Rotterdam. 1662), you will meet his match for bigotry, though not for wit, on the side of the Masoretic text. “The Vindication of the

History of the Septuagint, (London, 1736), is a learned and reputable work, which brings together whatever can be urged in defence of Aristeas. The same judgment may be given of the "Enquiries into the Archetype of the Septuagint, by the Rev. H. S. Cruys," (London, 1784), and "A Letter showing why our English Bibles differ from the Septuagint," (London, 1743). Dr. Brett's "Dissertation on the Ancient Versions of the Bible," is a treatise of still greater value, (London, 1759), and should be read by all, who desire much information in a small compass. In "An Enquiry into the present state of the Septuagint version," good sense and research are shown by Dr. Henry Owen. (London, 1769.) Dr. John Blair's "Lectures on the Canon," contain a Dissertation on the LXX Version, of considerable merit (London, 1785). But the most learned and comprehensive work, since the days of Hody, on this specific subject, is the *Apologia Sententiæ Patrum De LXX Versione*, appended to the splendid edition of *Daniel secundum LXX. Romæ, 1772*. It consists of Five Dissertations, which completely exhaust the argument. At the close, you will find, *Testimonia Patrum aliorumque Christianorum De Scripturarum Græcâ Versione*. It is published anonymously, but its scholarship would do honour to any name. It qualifies and corrects many of Hody's reasonings and objections against the Canonical authority of the LXX.

I cannot conclude this note, without again adverting to the Two Sermons, preached before the University of Durham by the present learned Bp. Maltby, in which, he beautifully illustrates the general importance of the Septuagint version, in reference to the New Testament. London, 1843. They are well worthy the attention of the Scholar and Divine. Consult the article "Septuagint," in Kitto's Biblical Cyclopædia, and the Fifth Lecture of Dean Graves on the Pentateuch. Part 3, Sect. 2.; Montfaucon's *Præliminaria in Hexap. Orig. cap. 3, 4*; Dr. Lec's Prolegomena to Bagster's Polyglott Bible, Proleg. iv, and the *Eruditorum Testimonia* prefixed to my *Scholia Hellenistica*. London, 1848.

No. 2.

AS one of the main arguments of this "Apology" depends on the numerous citations from the LXX in the New Testament, it is proper, that we should indicate the chief sources of information, on that important and much litigated subject. — The first Collection of Parallels, as far as I can trace, was made by the celebrated Robert Stephens, and prefixed to his fine Edition of the Greek Testament, printed at Paris, 1550. It consists of two Tables, the first, those which are literal, and the other, those which agree only in sense. His references are to the LXX. They have been often reprinted, by Tonson, Bowyer, &c. in later editions, without any acknowledgment. They fill eighteen folio columns, and consist of about 250 passages.

The next were the *Parallela Sacra* of Drusius, Franck. 1588. They are printed, both in Hebrew and Greek, with two Latin translations, the one, by himself, the other, from the Vulgate. He has prefixed some excellent Canons, and added some judicious notes. It fills 124 pages, and well deserves to be reprinted.

The earliest, and perhaps the best, distinct collection was made by the celebrated Biblical translator, Francis Junius, entitled, *Sacrorum Parallelorum libri tres*. The second edition is dated London, 1588. The first book contains 98 parallels, and ends with the Acts. The second 58, ends with Timothy. The third is exclusively employed in analyzing the Epistle to the Hebrews, which contains more Septuagintal matter, than any other portion of the New Testament. It closes with a short appendix, containing the parallels in the subsequent Epistles. The method which Junius pursues, is less strict than that of any other writer; but it is well adapted, to show the intimate connexion between the Old and New Testament. His quotations are only in Latin, and do not exhibit either the Hebrew, or Greek text.

Bishop Wettenhall was the first English divine, I believe, who turned his attention to this specific subject. In a work, entitled "Scripture Authentic and Faith certain" (Lond. 1686), he endeavours to show, from a selection of 40 texts, taking 10 from each of the Gospels, that the citations, on the whole, agree with

the Hebrew, rather than the LXX; a conclusion now universally known to be erroneous. But he was arguing against Papists, who unjustly exalted the Greek version over the Original, and may be excused for magnifying his argument. Yet, according to Spearman, (p. 353) "if we pursue his method, the majority of quotations from the LXX will be 50, which is a greater majority, by 8, than by my account." — But his reasoning is so obscure, that I cannot recommend his book to the notice of the student.

Spearman's "Letters concerning the Septuagint Translation, and the Heathen Mythology," (Edinburgh, 1759) were professedly written on Hutchinsonian principles, and, like most of their writings, exhibit a strange medley of recondite learning, and the most whimsical interpretations of Greek and Hebrew words. In his Third Letter, he has drawn up an elaborate collection of the citations in the New Testament, from the Hebrew and the LXX, and gives the majority of 63, in favour of the LXX. In the following Letter, he endeavours to show, that the sacred penmen only made use of the Septuagint "as an index to send us to the Hebrew," p. 366, and that it can afford no light, but as a conductor to the mysteries contained in the Original!

With all its eccentricities, this book is well deserving of an attentive perusal.—He makes a sorry calculation, however, when he asserts, "that, what we have, in the New Testament, by way of quotation, from the Old, whether agreeing, or varying, from the LXX, when put together, is little more than the 119th Psalm." p. 395. According to my calculation, it is, at least, as much again. There are about 350 quotations, many of them consisting of several verses, and of these, not more than 50 can be fairly put down, against the LXX. I repeat, that the bulk of the citations in the New Testament, are equal in extent, to S. Mark's Gospel, or to the Epistle to the Hebrews.

In 1782, Dr. Randolph published at Oxford, "The Prophecies and other texts cited in the New Testament, compared with the Hebrew original, and with the Septuagint version." He has, accordingly, printed the Hebrew, LXX and New Testament, in three columns, and has added some useful notes. The quotations com-

pared, however, are, only 179. It is a valuable and useful work. According to his computation, there are 72 *verbatim* quotations from the LXX: 47 will agree, with only some variation 30 agreeing in sense, but not in words: total 149. Differing from the LXX, but agreeing exactly or nearly, with Heb. 13; whilst there are 19 which agree, with neither.—A fair account is given of the citations, in Blair On the Canon, pp. 86-170.

In 1827, Professor Stuart republished Dr. Randolph's Quotations, with many additions, but without any notes. (Andover, Massachusetts, 4to., 1827). Dr. Davidson has more recently republished them in his "Sacred Hermeneutics."

Mr. Hartwell Horne, in his excellent "Introduction to the Critical knowledge and Study of the Holy Scriptures," has furnished the Biblical student with a most valuable and elaborate account of the Quotations in the New Testament. See vol. ii. part i. chap. 4. It is necessary to observe, however, that, in the first list of "Quotations, exactly agreeing with the Hebrew," § 2, all agree *verbatim* with the LXX, except 6; and that, in his second Table of "Quotations nearly agreeing with the Hebrew," many exactly agree with the LXX, and all very nearly; whilst, in his third list, "Quotations agreeing with the Hebrew in sense, but not in words," many exactly agree with the LXX, and the rest very nearly.—In his seventh list, of "Quotations, in which there is reason to suppose a different reading," &c. some agree exactly, and all very nearly, with the LXX. I mention these particulars, because this admirable Work of my learned friend has deservedly obtained great influence amongst theological students, and, if not thus noticed, might lead to very erroneous conclusions, respecting the comparative number of citations, as relative to the LXX, or the Hebrew. Even in the list, "Quotations differing from the LXX, but agreeing exactly, or nearly, with the Hebrew," out of the 11 specified, there are 5, which agree very nearly with the LXX. In list 5, "Quotations, which differ from both the LXX and the Hebrew," out of 19, there are 12, which nearly agree with the LXX.

It is necessary to be thus painfully minute, that I may

justify the general argument of this Apology, by showing, that our Protestant prepossessions in favour of the Hebrew text, have often led us involuntarily to deal somewhat harshly with the Greek version. The reason is obvious. It has been thought a degradation for the inspired writers, to appeal to an uninspired authority, and therefore, every effort has been strained, to diminish the Septuagintal quotations. This conclusion would be perfectly correct, if we admit the premiss. Allow the LXX to be nothing more, than a merely human version, and the consequence is not only implied, but necessary; whereas by showing, that the number of Septuagintal quotations in the New Testament, much exceed those derived from any other source, we go far to establish the point at issue.—Out of 350 quotations, I once more declare, that, not more than 50 can be fairly reckoned, to differ from the LXX.

In Dr. Owen's *Modes of Quotation*, (Lond. 1789), the reader will find much useful information. "The texts, cited in the Gospels and Acts," he says p. 89, "amount in number to 76: of these, 60, at least, appear, on comparison, to be strictly conformable to some, or other of our Septuagint copies." This is a very inadequate computation of the gross amount, (the Acts alone containing 50 LXX citations); but it evinces his opinion, as to their comparative number.

In the *Quarterly Journal of Prophecy* for October 1849, appears a very accurate and elaborate analysis of the quotations in the Gospels, as they relate to the Hebrew, or the LXX. The writer shows, that our Blessed Lord almost invariably adheres to the Version, whilst his disciples occasionally refer to the Hebrew text.—*The suggestion, that Jesus was taught, as a child, to read the LXX, is an immediate corollary from this important distinction.* See Appendix, No. 17.

No. 3.

AS several allusions are made in this Apology, to the opinions of a Hebraic school of divines, who went under the name of *Hutchinsonians*, and which, though now extinct as a

school, professing to hold Philosophical opinions at variance with the Newtonian *Principia*, may still be supposed to exercise some indirect influence on subjects of Biblical philology; it may be useful to make a few observations on their peculiar opinions, respecting the LXX. From their high and mystical sentiments, concerning the Hebrew text, they were led to take a very low estimate of the Greek Version. They conceived, that Greek terms were totally inadequate to represent the mysteries, contained under the corresponding words in Hebrew; and that it was out of mere condescension to the Gentiles, the New Testament was written in Greek. Viewing, therefore, the Greek version, “as a *targum*, rather than a literal translation,” (Spearman, p. 366), they would not admit, strictly speaking, there were any quotations from the LXX. This led them to conceive very meanly of the doctrinal phraseology of the New Testament, as borrowed entirely from the Septuagint, and containing none of the mysteries, concealed under the Hebrew terms, Jehovah, Elohim, Berith, &c. &c. “Neither doth the use the writers of the New Testament” says Spearman, “make of the LXX, stamp any authority on that version, or entitle it to impose the sense of the Greek words and phrases, on the Hebrew.” (p. 377). See also Duncan Forbes’s *Thoughts concerning Religion*. Edinb. 1750.

Such were their abstract and extreme principles—but, in practice, they were, in every respect, much superior to their theories. The Hebrew and Greek Lexicons of Parkhurst, with all their amusing eccentricities, contain much sound and valuable information, and are mainly indebted to the collation of the LXX, for their utility. The extracts, which I have furnished from Spearman, will evince, that, in his more deliberate sentiments, he attached an indisputable importance, to the Greek Version. Parkhurst’s Greek Lexicon, as edited by Mr. Rose, is perhaps the most useful manual for the student of the Greek Testament.

It is probable, the peculiar sentiments of this forgotten School, may still exercise an indirect influence on the prevailing opinions, respecting the Septuagint. Their piety and devotion justly enabled them to take a firm hold on the re-

spect of many, who never adhered, either to their philological, or philosophical sentiments. The works of Horne and Jones are still held in high and deserved estimation, among men of learning; whilst the devotional treatises of Romaine and Serle find a large body of admirers, in the Christian closet.—Far be it from me, or mine, to wish to lessen their religious influence, or to detract from their well-earned reputation. I am merely recording literary *facts*, with reference to the subject of this “Apology.”—It is impossible, I think, to doubt, that the subordinate estimation, in which, the Greek Version of the Old Testament is still generally held among us, and the paramount and exclusive authority attributed to the Hebrew, is not, in some measure, owing to the indirect influence of such respectable names. It is now not uncommon, even for ladies to study the Hebrew, and generally, without the points. They often affect to look down on the Septuagint, and speak of it, as devoid of all Scriptural authority.—These sentiments have become so prevalent and popular, that I may stand excused, for endeavouring to plead the cause of that Version, which so long engaged the love and veneration of the primitive Church.

But, whatever may have been the errors of the *Hutchinsonian* School, they were in total contrast, to those of the present rationalists of Germany and North-America. The former held the Hebrew Scriptures, in high and mysterious reverence. They never questioned the plenary inspiration of Moses and the Prophets; and their low estimation of the Greek version, was founded, on their unlimited veneration of the Hebrew original. But, we have lived to behold multitudes of the learned, devoting their days to the study of Biblical citations, and coming to the preposterous conclusion, that the Scriptures, both of the Old and of the New Testament, are of merely human authority. I have endeavoured to trace this unnatural result, to the neglect of the LXX:—I now leave the decision to those, who are best entitled to pronounce the verdict.

It is one of the strange conjectures of the modern German divines, that the Alexandrian Version was made, not from the Hebrew text, but from the ancient Jewish targums. If so, the

New Testament is interwoven with these targums!—See the tract on the language of Palestine, in the age of Christ, by De Rossi and Pfannkuche, *Biblical Cabinet*, vol. 1, No. 2, Edinburgh, 1833. For a general refutation of such chimeras, we refer to the masterly work of Professor Stuart *On the Canon*, edited by Dr. Davidson. Lond. 1849.

No. 4.

ON the subject of the authenticity of Aristeas, whoever desires to read whatever may be urged in its defence, should consult the learned “Vindication” London, 1736, and the *Apologia Sententiæ Patrum*, appended to the LXX edition of *Daniel*. Rome, 1772. He will discover much to amuse and instruct, in Gregory’s *History of the LXX*. Lond. 1664. In Dr. Hody’s classical work, he will find a well-digested confutation of the leading arguments in its favor; but drawn up too much in the spirit of a partizan, to satisfy those, who may think the best path lies between extremes.

It was not till the time of Jerome, that the original narrative was called in question. The universal belief of the early Fathers, concerning the inspiration of the LXX, was associated with their trust in the history of Aristeas. This belief extended also to many of the ancient Rabbins and Talmudists, as is shown by Gregory in his learned *History of the LXX*. Without giving assent to the story of the *Cells*, I cannot divest myself of the conviction, that the early Christian Church had some substantial reason, for believing there was something extraordinary, in the origin of the Greek version.—But it is a question, on which, every one may decide for himself, and the decision cannot materially affect the validity of the argument, for the canonical and Scriptural authority of the LXX. The question, as relative to Aristeas, should be viewed as entirely open, and not blended with the essential principles of this Apology. Whoever desires to see the fact, apart from the fiction, should consult the learned *Diatribæ* of Valckenaer, *De Aristobulo Judæo*, Lug. Bat. 1806, § 17-21. He justifies the

historical origin of the LXX, without vouching for the miraculous accounts of Aristeas. The same view is also taken by Dr. Davidson, in his "Third Lecture on Biblical Criticism." See also *Dissertatio Philologica De Var. Lectt. Holmesianis, autore Jacob. Amersfoort, Lug. Bat.* 1815. *De Vita et Script. Aristeæ, conf. Lumper. Hist. Theolog. Critic. Pars. vii. sect. 8.*

There is one point of great and permanent importance, viz. that, in all the ancient accounts of the Version of the LXX, its history is confined to the Books, contained in our present Canon. The Apocryphal books, therefore, must have been adduced, at a subsequent period.

No. 5.

A BRIEF notice of the dispute between Augustine and Jerome, respecting the LXX, may be reasonably expected, in this Apology. It led to some sharp altercations between Origen and Augustine, and Jerome and Ruffinus. A good account of the whole, may be found in Gregory's History of the LXX. Lond. 1664.—There were divers Latin translations from the LXX, circulated in the early Church, several of which were very faulty. The *Italic* was the highest in repute; but even that had become corrupt, from frequent transcription. It was Jerome's first intention, to set forth an authentic and correct copy of the *Italic*. He communicated this intention to Augustine, and it met with his cordial approbation. *August. Epist.* 28, Edit. Par. 1844.

But Jerome, altering his intentions, informed Augustine, that he now designed to make a fresh translation, from the original Hebrew, and supported this change of opinion, by pointing out various errors in the LXX. The Bishop of Hippo became alarmed, and strongly dissuaded Jerome, from venturing on a project, which, in his opinion, might disturb the peace of the Church, by unsettling the minds of believers, in reading the Holy Scriptures. *Hieron. Epist.* 56, 71, 104. Edit. Par. 1845. Jerome was steady to his purpose, and spoke more and more disparagingly of the Greek version. Augustine remonstrated in vain, and

forbade the use of Jerome's translation in his diocese. Ruffinus assaulted him with much virulence, and these eminent Fathers of the Church displayed all the usual violence of angry polemics.

The general canon laid down by Jerome was this — that, wherever there is any difficulty, it must be solved by an *exclusive* reference to the Hebrew. St. Augustine was of opinion, that the Original and the Version should be consulted, and that the best interpretation should be chosen, between them.—See Du Pin's account of the whole matter, cent. v. in his Lives of Jerome and Augustine. Cyril of Jerusalem was also of the same sentiments: *Divinas lege Scripturas V. T. libros xxii. quos LXXII. Interpp. transtulerunt. Hos solos meditare, quos et in Ecclesiâ securè tutòque recitamus.* Catech. 4. See Bp. Cosin *On the Canon*, (A. D. 360.)

The following extracts, from the works of Augustine and Jerome, will enable the reader to judge, how far this representation is correct.

Propterea me, nolle tuam ex Hebræo interpretationem in Ecclesiâ lege, ne contra LXX auctoritatem, tanquam novum aliquid proferentes, magno scandalo perturbemus plebes Christi, quarum aures et corda illam interpretationem, audire consueverunt, quæ etiam ab Apostolis approbata est. August. Epist. 82, sect. 35, tom. ii. p. 203, Edit. Benedict. Par. 1679, p. 291. Edit. Par. 1843.

In *Retract.* lib. i. tom. i. p. 9, he corrects a passage in the Psalms 44, 22, (Rom. viii. 36) on the authority of the LXX, and adds, *Hoc esse verius Græcè libri indicant, ex quâ linguâ in Latinam secund. LXX interpp. vett. divinarum Scripturarum est facta translatio. Non parvum pondus habet illa (Versio LXX) quæ sic meruit defamari, et quâ usos Apostolos, non tantùm res ipsa indicat, sed etiam te attestatum esse memini.* Epist. ad Hieron. Conf. Walton, Proleg. ix. § 38.

Nec LXX Interpp. quos legere consuevit Ecclesia, errâsse credendi sunt, &c.—non interpretationis servitute, sed prophetiæ auctoritate.—Non ergo dicemus unum horum falsum esse, et pro aliis interpp. adversus alios litigemus; cùm illi qui ex Hebræo interpretantur, probent nobis hoc scriptum esse quod interpretantur, et

*LXX Interpp. auctoritas, quæ tanto etiam divinitus facto miraculo commendatur, tantâ in Ecclesiis vetustate firmatur. Quæst. 167, in Exod. lib. ii. Et Latinis quibuslibet emendandis, Græci adhibeantur, in quibus, LXX Interpp. quod ad Vet. Test. attinet, excellit auctoritas; qui jam per omnes peritiores Ecclesias tantâ presentîâ S. Spiritus interpretari dicuntur, ut os unum tot hominum fuerit &c. Quidquid verò est apud LXX in Hebr. autem Codd. non est, per istos ea maluit, quàm per illos, idem Spiritus dicere, sic ostendens utrosque fuisse prophetas.—Quidquid porrò apud utrosque invenitur, per utrosque dicere voluit unus atque idem Spiritus; sed ità, ut illi præcederent prophetando, isti sequerentur propheticè illos interpretando: quia sicut in illis vera, et concordantia dicentibus, unus pacis Spiritus fuit; sic et in istis non secum conferentibus, et tamen uno ore cuncta interpretantibus, idem Spiritus unus apparuit. De Civitat. Dei, lib. xviii. cap. 43. Of this section, this is the title—*De auctoritate LXX Interpp. quæ, salvo honore Hebræi styli, omnibus sit Interpp. præferenda.* Conf. De Doct. Christ. lib. ii. cap. 15. De Consens. Evang. lib. ii. § 66, after acknowledging that the LXX frequently differ from the Hebrew, he thus accounts for it:—*Nihil probabilius occurrere existimo, quàm illos LXX eò Spiritu interpretatos, quò, et illa quæ interpretabantur, dicta fuerant,* and that, therefore both interpretations were to be considered, as inspired. He repeatedly enforces the same sentiment: *Multò magis credendi sunt LXX Divino Spiritu interpretati, quò Spiritu et illa dicta sunt, quæ in Hebræis litteris sunt. Eòdem namque operanti Spiritu, etiam hoc dici oportuit, quod dictum est.—Hieronymus bis sacros codices transtulit. 1. Ex Græcâ Versione τῶν ο, ut in Originis Hexaplis extabat, pura et incorrupta, ut ipse testatur, Epist. ad Suniam et Fretellam. 2. Ex Hebræo. Novi verò Testamenti Latinam Versionem Evangeliorum, juxta Græcum textum correxit, hortatu Damasi Papæ; non de novo confecit, ut ex præfat. ad Evang. liquet. Hæc verò postrema Vet. Test. Hieron. Versio non statim recepta est; sed ut nova, et in opprobrium Græcæ Sept. facta, multos habuit magni nominis in Ecclesiâ contradicentes. S. Augustinus non permisit in**

suâ diœcesi publicè legi; alii in eam invectivas scripsere, ut ex ejus Apologiis patet. Ducentis post Hieron. annis, utraque tam vetus quàm nova in usu erat, ut ex Gregor. Epist. ad Leandrum constat; donec tandem ex utrâque, Vulgata hodierna conflata est. Walton. Proleg. v. 5.

The contradictory opinions of Jerome concerning the LXX, may be collected from Epist. 49 *ad Pammach*, in which he comments on the chief discrepancies between the LXX, the Hebrew, and the New Testament. But in lib. ii. § 35 cont. Ruffin. he incautiously places the issue, on producing any passages in the New Testament, which are not in accordance with the Hebrew text. *Sicut ergo ego ostendo multa in N. T. posita de vett. libb. quæ in LXX non habentur, et hæc scripta in Hebr. doceo; sic accusator ostendat, aliquid scriptum esse in N. T. de LXX. Interpp. quod in Hebr. non habeatur; et finita est contentio.*—Epist. ad Domnionem, in Lib. Paralip. *Nec hoc. LXX. Interpp. qui, Spiritu Sancto pleni, ea, quæ vera fuerunt, transtulerunt, sed scriptorum culpæ ascribendum.* Contrast the following in Epist. ad Pammach. *Lege eundem Græcum et Latinum, et vet. edit. nostræ translationi compara; et liquidò pervidebis, quantum distet inter veritatem, et mendacium.* Comment. in Abac. *Non quæro quid Aquila, quid Symmachus sapiant, quare Theodotion inter novos et veteres medius incedat: sit illa vera Interpretatio, quam Apostoli probaverunt.* Cf. Grabe. Proleg. tom ii. § 21. *Neque verò LXX. Interpp. ut invidi latrant, errores arguimus; nec nostrum laborum, illorum reprehensionem putamus.* Editio LXX. *toto orbe vulgata est:* Comment. in Esa. p. 791. Edit. Vallars. *Eos, Spiritu Sanct. plenos, scribit Hieron. Pref. 2 in Paralip. Ea quæ vera sunt transtulisse &c.* (licèt alibi dicat, eos *Interpretes fuisse, non vates*, variosque errores illis attribuat. Walton. Proleg. ix. cap. 8. Edit. Tigur. 1673. *Ipse denique Hieronymus, qui LXX Interpp. auctoritatem nonnunquam elevat, magnificè aliquando, ac, sicut cæteri Patres, de iis, velut de Interpp. ἀναμαρτήτοις καὶ θεοπνεύστοις, sentit et loquitur, ut Præfat. in Paralip. et Apologia Secunda in Ruffinum: in quâ accusatus, quòd LXX. Interpp. detraheret, magnâ animi contentione ab hæc calumniâ se tuetur, &c.* Morini Præfat. ad Edit. LXX, Par. 1628.

Much allowance, however, is due for these apparent contradictions of Jerome, when we consider how much he was harassed by his opponents. *Ubi cum asteriscos, i. e. stellas, radiare in hoc volumine videritis, ibi sciatis de Hebr. additum, quod in Lat. Codd. non habetur. Ubi verò obelus, transversa scil. virga præposita est, illic signatur, quid LXX. Interpp. addiderint, vel ob decoris gratiam, vel ob Spiritus S. auctoritatem, licet in Heb. non legatur.* Epist. ad Dominionem.

It gives me sincere regret, to allude to the severe and summary manner, in which, the learned Professor Lee treats the opinion of Augustine, respecting the Scriptural authority of the Septuagint. *Augustinus, nescio quo fato, additamenta, defectusque hujus adeò defædadae Versionis, ad Spiritus Sancti operationes referre non dubitavit.* Proleg. iv. § 3, c. 7. He cites the same passages, which had been adduced by Walton in support of his sentiments, with a tone of scorn, which nothing can justify. The representations of such men, as Augustine, Walton, and Pocock, cannot suffer by ill-placed irony. The arguments adduced in this Apology, on behalf of the sentiments of the primitive Church, may, I trust, satisfactorily account for the reverence, which Augustine, as the representative of that Church, paid to the Septuagint. They deserve, at least, a *serious* examination.

The following extract from *Twells's Life of Pocock*, will form no unfit justification of these remarks :

“Jerome’s salvo, that the Version of the LXX. with all its faults, was used, because it was already in the hands of the Hellenistic Jews; though it has been a thousand times urged in disputes of this kind, is far from satisfying this important query : for St. Matthew, in his Gospel, without regard to the circumstances of the Hellenists, often makes a Greek translation of his own, and so, doubtless, would all the other penmen have done, if the Greek of the LXX. had been so corrupt, as some pretend. How easy had it been, when the gift of tongues was so common in the Church, for one, or more, inspired persons to have drawn up a new version for the use of such, as did not understand the original language of the Old Testament, which was the case of the generality of Christians, both in the Apostolical and suc-

ceeding ages, and not to have left an important part of the Scripture Canon to them, in so bad a condition, as the Greek of the LXX. is by some represented to be. They had little to fear, from the fondness of the Hellenist Jews for their accustomed version; it being absurd to suppose, that the same authority, which reconciled them to the abrogation of the law, would be insufficient to recommend a new version of it.—In a word, the seeming differences between the Hebrew text and the translation we are speaking of, are scarce wider anywhere, than in some passages cited thence, in the New Testament; which should incline us to be sparing of our censures, on account of such variations, and to think the LXX. at least in general, a sound and useful version.” pp. 320-333.—The whole is worthy of the reader’s attention.

No. 6.

THE following brief notice of several passages, adduced in the New Testament from the Old, in which the LXX. are followed, even where they differ from the Hebrew, is submitted to the reader, to evince the rashness of Jerome’s challenge to Ruffinus. It may also suffice, to refute the assertion of Taylor, *that the Apostles never argue from the Greek version.*

The second *Cainan* in St. Luke’s genealogy, (cap. iii. 37), is entirely dependent on the authority of the LXX. 1 Par. i. 2. Query,—*May we not hence infer, that the general chronology of the LXX. is sanctioned, by the authority of the New Testament?* Matt. xv. 8, 9, Esa. xxix. 13, agree with the LXX. and differ from the Hebrew. So likewise, Act. ii. 25, Ps. xvi. 8, Act. xv. 17, Amos. ix. 12, Rom. x. 18, Ps. xix. 5, Heb. x. 5, Ps. xl. 6, Heb. i. 6, Deut. xxxii. 43, not found in the Hebrew. Rom. iii. 10-18, follow, in succession, in the LXX, Ps. xiii. 3, but not in the Hebrew. See also Heb. v. 6, Ps. cix. 4, Acts. vii. 14, Gen. xlv. 27. The number might be easily enlarged.—Consult the note of Mill at the end of Hebrews, *Hujusmodi sunt ista ex Psalmis*: ‘Ο ποιῶν τοὺς ἀγγέλους αὐτοῦ πνεύματα, cap. i. 7. Ἠλάττωσας αὐτὸν βραχύ τι παρ’ ἀγγέλους, cap. ii. 7. Θυσίαν καὶ προσφορὰν οὐκ ἠθέλησας, σῶμα δὲ κατηρίσω μοι, cap. x. 5. *pro quibus,*

si reponas ea quæ sunt in Hebræo, ratiocinationis Paulinæ robur, ac nervos omnes planè incideris. Quod autem ex voce διαθήκη (cap. ix. 16-19), quâ, in locis ex Jerem. et Exod. ab illo citatis utuntur LXX. Interpp. probet Apostolus mortem Testatoris intercedere debuisset, quòd aliter ratum non sit Testamentum; certè in Hebræicis ap. Jerem. et Exod. nullus omninò datur probationi isti locus. Berith enim non significat Testamentum, sed tantùm in genere Fædus, seu Pactum. These passages are adduced by the learned Dr. Mill, to show, that the Epistle to the Hebrews was originally written in Greek, and they are decisive to his purpose. But, they prove also to demonstration, that the Version of the LXX. is indissolubly bound up with the reasoning of the Apostle, and that, unless you believe the inspiration of the Septuagint, you must cease to believe the inspiration of the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews. The LXX. translated *berith* by *διαθήκη*, and thus it must be construed *a Covenant, fædus*, in various passages in the Old Testament. But the word *διαθήκη*, in Hellenistic Greek (see Jos. Ant. 17. 9. 7.), means also, *a Will, testamentum*, and therefore, the Apostle took it in a *double* signification, as implying both *a covenant*, and *a covenant, fortified by a Will*, which implies the death of the testator. Yet, it is not true, as Spearman argues, p. 371, that a mere knowledge of the word *berith* would have led to this explanation. It results from the *double* meaning of the word *διαθήκη*; though, it is likely, the Apostle associated the secondary use, with the proper Hebrew meaning of *Berith*.—Consult also, *Macknight's Preface to the Epistle to the Hebrews. Sect. 2.*

It should be remembered, that the verbal argument, here adduced by Mill, to prove that the Epistle to the Hebrews was originally in Greek, will equally apply to several other parts of Scripture. Thus the play on the words Πέτρος, and πέτρα, Matt. xvi. 18, goes far to prove the Greek origin of that Gospel. Very few of St. Paul's verbal antitheses will bear translation. But our translators have ventured on *concision*, *Phil. iii. 2.* Their happiest example is original; *James v. 6.* In 1 *Sam. xv. 3*, is an Hebraic play on the name *Nabal*, which is quite lost, in the LXX. in our own, and in every other translation.

No. 7.

BY those who know, that both Jerome and Origen have frequently charged the Jews, with the wilful corruption of the Hebrew text, it can scarcely be credited, that one of the most popular arguments for exalting that text, to the disparagement of the LXX. was the supposed immutability, or, as it was called, the *integrity* of that text. It was represented, on the other hand, that the Greek Version had come down, so utterly depraved and corrupted, that it was of no value. Such arguments may be found stated in all their extent, by Turretin, *Instit. Theolog. Pars Prima, Quæst. XIV. An Versio LXX. Vet. Test. sit authentica? Negatur.*—Nay, even by Limborch, *Theologia Christiana*, lib. 1, cap. 3, § 7. Also by Episcopius, *Instit. Theolog.* lib. 4, cap. 21, p. 276, who admits, however, that it would be of equal authority with the Hebrew, *if* it had come down to us equally uncorrupted. He admits also, that the Hebrew text should be corrected by the Greek version, whenever the New Testament citations are in its favour. Concerning these citations, I shall give the opinions of Turretin, in his own words:—*Testimonia quæ ex LXX. versione allegantur in N. T. authentica sunt, non per se, sive quatenus à LXX. ex Hebræo in Græcum sunt traducta; sed, per accidens, quatenus approbata et sanctificata sunt à Spiritu S. et ejus afflatu, ab Evangelistis in contextum sacrum relata.* It is much to the honour of Calvin, that he has introduced no such scholastic jargon, in his *Institutes*.—It was the imprudent conduct of Isaac Vossius, which so much prejudiced our Protestant forefathers, against the LXX. This learned, ingenious, but most injudicious scholar, could be satisfied with nothing short of giving up the Hebrew text as corrupt, and setting up the Septuagint translation, as the only pure canon of the Old Testament Scriptures!* Against such dangerous sentiments, Dr. Pocock, and all sober-minded divines protested; but, in avoiding the extreme of Vossius, many ran into the opposite error, of denying the LXX. all canonical authority. Pocock,

* Twells's Life of Pocock, p. 320. Lond. 1816.

perhaps the greatest Oriental scholar of the seventeenth century, took a middle course. Though he held the Masoretic text, in the highest esteem, yet he labours in his *Commentaries on Hosea*, and in his *Porta Mosis*, to reconcile the Greek, with the Hebrew text:—"He well knew," says his learned biographer, "the regard that was, on many accounts, due to that famous version; its great antiquity, and the nearness of its authors to the times, when Hebrew was a living language: above all, the use made of it, in the Scriptures of the New Testament, in the first ages of the Church," &c. "Happy had it been for truth, if others, who opposed the extravagancies of Vossius, had observed the same decorum and judgment; if, like him, they had defended the Masoretic text, without giving up the Version," &c. The readers will perceive from these and similar observations, in the life of that eminent Orientalist, that he approximated to the essential principle of this Apology.

Yet, even Pocock, in the opinion of Twells, went "too far in supposing the Hebrew text always, and in every particular, read, as it is at present," &c. "But," he adds, "it is the less to be wondered at, if he was prejudiced in favour of it, especially, considering likewise, that Hebrew verity was the prevailing opinion of the time, in which he was educated, and was then thought by most Protestants, essential to the interests of the Reformation," pp. 330—335.*

This imaginary integrity of the Hebrew text, descended to the age of Spearman and the Hutchinsonians, who were professed antagonists of Kennicott and his collations. The same opposition had before been given to Dr. Mill, for his laborious collation of the New Testament MSS. There was, indeed, no opposition raised against Holmes and Parsons, for their collation of Septuagintal MSS.; but this may be accounted for, from the low estimation, to which that text had fallen. It is probable, that many still entertain a mysterious and indescribable veneration of Hebrew, which may long stand in the way, of any satisfactory adjustment of texts, which should never have been

* Appendix No. 7.

treated, as rivals. Yet, it is hopeful and satisfactory to know, that neither the Eastern, nor Western Church, nor the Church of England, have made any public declaration against the Scriptural and canonical authority of the LXX. It is to be lamented, indeed, that several of the most learned Romanists, amongst whom are Bellarmine and Morinus, have evinced a contrary tendency. But the Church of Rome is not committed, by their individual opinions. Though she has erred, and greatly erred, on the subject of the Apocrypha, she cannot be justly charged with any error, concerning the authority of the Hebrew and the LXX. as forming the joint canon of the Old Testament.

As to the Church of England, there is nothing in her Articles, Homilies, or Liturgy which should prevent us, from the free and unbiassed exercise of our own judgment, on this important question. Though our Bible translation is made professedly from the Hebrew, it often adopts the interpretation of the LXX. It is, like the Vulgate, a *mixed* translation, taking the Hebrew as its standard, but frequently amending that standard, by the collation of the Greek version (Ps. xxii. 16). In the Prayer-Book version of the Psalms, on the contrary, it takes the LXX. as the standard, though that standard is occasionally adjusted to the Hebrew text. (See Ps. ii. 12.)

The sole department of the Protestant Church, which has publicly denounced the LXX. as uncanonical, is the Church of Geneva. Her conduct, in this respect, may be easily explained.—At the Reformation, Calvin disclaimed all subjection to ecclesiastical authority, as derived from primitive antiquity. He consequently felt no reverence for the early Canon, and the prescription of 400 years could give the LXX. no title to canonical authority, in his esteem.* But, it was not so with our Anglican Reformers. They still appealed to the early Fa-

* As a specimen of the rudeness and irreverence, which even Tremellius could evince on this subject, the following extract, from the Preface to his Latin Version, may suffice.—*Quis enim tot ineptias in tantorum (si credimus) hominum animos tanto consensu incidisse credat, quales singulis paginis offenduntur? tot corruptos locos? tot additos? tot omissos? Quis denique eosdem esse cum antiquis exemplaribus putet, qui eos ipsos locos quos Evangelistæ, Apostoli, et alii Patres de verbo ad verbum adduxerunt, cum lib. nostris contulerit? Extant septem loquutionis libri ab Augustino scripti; in quibus quotusquisque est locus cui bene cum lib. nostris*

thers, even in matters of faith and doctrine, and founded their opposition to the Romish Church, on the assumption, that she had departed from the primitive Church, by introducing the Apocrypha into the Canon.

The point at issue, therefore, as relating to the Canon, was the Apocrypha, not the LXX. This remained *in statu quo*.—The inference to be drawn is clearly in favour of a joint canonical alliance.—At any rate, it should be considered *an open question for all members of the Church of England*.

conveniat?—And now let us contrast with this abuse, the opinion of one, who was by no means over favourable to the LXX. *Rarum et incomparabilem thesaurum esse, neminem ignorare posse, nisi qui ab omni eruditione alienus sit.* Heinsii Aristarch. Sacr. cap. xv. p. 901.—It is right to add, that neither the Helvetic, the Augsburg, or any other of the Reformed Confessions, nor the Synod of Dort, make any canonical distinction between the Hebrew and the LXX. in the Article *De Scripturis*, and therefore, even amongst Calvinists, it seems to rest, rather on the opinions of eminent individuals, than on any official document. Both Zuinglius and Melancthon speak, in the highest terms, of the Greek Version. *Grabii Edit. LXX. Postscript. Editoris.*

With regard to the various readings collected by Holmes and Parsons, they are, as Schleusner has remarked, little more than *mendarum farraginem*.* Nearly all, which are valuable or important, may be found in Bos, or Bretinger. The varieties of the Vatican, the Alexandrine, the Aldine, and Complutensian are important, but the discoveries of Holmes and Parsons seldom throw any light on the text. They are, however, valuable as negative arguments, to evince how little the text has materially suffered, whilst they form an excellent *barometer*, for testing the comparative value of superior MSS.

I cannot conclude this note, without observing, how much a really good and instructive edition of the LXX. is still a *desideratum*, in Biblical literature. As far as relates to the New Testament, I have imperfectly attempted to supply the wants of the student, in reference to the LXX. But the entire plan cannot be carried out, without a corresponding edition of the Greek Version of the Old Testament. Such an edition should at once, explain the *rationale* of the Hellenistic Greek, by referring to the Hebrew text, and also furnish us with philological and doctrinal illustrations, by corresponding references to the New Testament. Everything relating to the illustration of parallels and citations, should be amply provided. Josephus and Philo would offer a rich mine for research.—Such an Edition would necessarily be the labour of many years, and none but a theological student, in the vigour of his faculties, should attempt the task. But, if well accomplished, it would be invaluable.—Some useful hints might be gained, from the method which Pricæus has adopted, in his Annotations on the LXX. Psalms. In regard to the text, it should be based on an impartial collation of the Vatican, Complutensian, Alexandrine, and Aldine Editions, and not confined, as heretofore, to following implicitly any single MS.

* Pref. Lexicon. LXX.

No. 8.

THE following extracts, from Bishop Pearson's admirable Preface to his Edition of the LXX. I give in the words of Spearman, "who thinks them full to his purpose." But the reader will judge, whether they do not rather confirm the statement of this Apology.

"After enumerating several benefits we reap from this Version, he saith :

"Nor is the LXX. version less useful and necessary, to a thorough understanding and a right explication of the New Testament; for the sacred penmen, not only frequently produce testimonies out of the Old Testament, but also accommodate Moses and the Prophets, to the doctrines of Christianity: and hence it will needs happen, that the mode and manner of expression, or the phraseology of the Hebrew, which was unknown, or at least unusual amongst the Grecians, must, to such as only understand Greek, render the Apostolic writings more obscure, than they would otherwise have been. Neither can this obscurity be taken away, or cleared, by any other means, than by the knowledge of the Hebrew idiom, in which the Old Testament is written; upon which, the Apostles every where keep an eye, and which, a little varied from its original purity, the Jews spake, in the time of our Saviour, to whose customs and manner of speaking, they accommodated their discourses. For which reason, the Greek Version of the Old Testament will of necessity be of very great use, in understanding the Apostolic writings; since, in that Version, all the idioms of the Hebrew language were transplanted, as well as the soil would bear them; in that, the sense of the prophetic writings was explained, as well as the Greek tongue, and the skill of the translators would permit; and to that, the Grecians, with whom the Apostles had most concern, had long been accustomed. And it is reasonable to believe, that this translation, by Divine Providence, was at first made to be the instrument and means of preparing the minds of the nations, who every where had it among them, for the better and more kindly reception of the doctrines of Christ and his Apostles.

“There are, therefore, many words in the New Testament, which, from the mere usage of the Greek tongue, cannot be understood ; which, by collation with the Hebrew, and the usage of the LXX, become easily intelligible. No one knows what *σὰρξ*, what *πνεῦμα* signify, among the Greek authors: and if you collect all the senses in which the Greeks use these words, you will find none that will reach the Apostles’ meaning. For as *בשר* properly signifies *flesh*, and yet is put by the Hebrew writers, for the *man himself*, for *human nature*, for the *weakness*, and even *depravity* of that nature; and all this variety of senses is rendered, by the LXX, by this one word *σὰρξ*. Hence, as often as the Apostles use this word, in a sense unknown to the Greeks, it becomes necessary to explain it from the genius of the Hebrew language, and the version of the LXX. As in that remarkable passage, John i. 14, where we read, *Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο*, which, without any authority of the ancient Greek writers, is rightly interpreted, *And the Word was made man*, or put on *human nature*. And *Ἐξ ἔργων νόμου οὐ δικαιοθήσεται πᾶσα σὰρξ*, that is, *any man*, as Ps. cxliv. 22, *εὐλογεῖτω πᾶσα σὰρξ* [*i. e.* every man] *τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ἄγιον*. Hence these phrases, *φρόνημα τῆς σαρκὸς—ἐν σαρκὶ ἐτ κατὰ σάρκα εἶσι, κατὰ σάρκα περιπατεῖν*,—*the will of the flesh,—to be in, and after the flesh, to walk after the flesh*, and many more; which are all modes of speaking, unknown and illegitimate among the Greeks. So, the proper signification of *רוח* *Ruah*, *wind*, or *air in motion*, as *πνεῦμα*, among the ancient Greek authors, denotes. But then, as *רוח* hath several other significations in the Hebrew, which have no place among the Greeks, whenever the Apostles use *πνεῦμα*, in a sense foreign to the Greek tongue, the passages wherein it is so used, must be explained by the Hebrew idiom, and the Septuagint version: as John iii. 6, *Τὸ γεγεννημένον ἐκ τῆς σαρκὸς, σὰρξ ἐστὶ καὶ τὸ γεγεννημένον ἐκ τοῦ Πνεύματος, πνεῦμα ἐστὶ: That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is Spirit.*—

“Whence should we know what *ῥῆμα* means, Luke i. 37, *Οὐκ ἄδυνατήσῃ παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ πᾶν ῥῆμα*, unless we recollect what is written, *Gen. xviii. 14, דבר מִיְהוָה דבר*, which the LXX translate, *Μὴ ἄδυνατήσῃ παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ ῥῆμα*; and consider

that דבר not only signifies a *word*, but any *matter, business, or transaction*; or whence should we know, what force and particular emphasis τὸ δίκαιον and τὸ δικαιῶσθαι have, in the Apostles' usage of these expressions, unless the Hebrew קצ had been used in the same sense, and the LXX had rendered it, by these Greek words? In vain, among the ancient Greeks, will you inquire after the meaning of πιστεύειν τῷ Θεῷ, εἰς τὸν Θεόν, *to believe God, or in God*, πιστεύειν εἰς τὸν Κύριον, and πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν πιστις, *faith in the Lord, and faith towards God*, which are so often enforced in the New Testament; which yet are easily understood from the LXX version. How should we guess at the meaning of ἀστείος τῷ Θεῷ, *Acts vii. 20*; unless the Septuagint had rendered the Hebrew וְתָרָא אֱתוֹ כִּי-טוֹב, by ἰδόντες δὲ αὐτὸ ἀστείον? Who would have even imagined, that ὁ Κύριος was to be taken, for the *Lord God*, unless the Septuagint had so used it, with whom, Κύριος is, ὁ Ὄν? pp. 422-429.

In this learned Preface, it is clearly shown, that Jerome has often mistaken the meaning of Hebrew and Greek words, from not collating the original with the version, and that he has frequently blamed the translator for no other cause, than his own ignorance of Hellenistic Greek. He convicts the version of Jerome, i. e. the Vulgate, of many gross errors and mistakes, which might have been avoided, had he adhered to the *Italic*; or had his prejudice been less strong, against the Alexandrian version. Nor, could it be expected, that his translation should be more free from error, since he tells us, that he finished the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Canticles, in three days, and Tobit, in one! See the article *Vulgate*, in Kitto's *Cyclopædium of Biblical Literature*.

No. 9.

ON the subject of the two versions of the Psalms, the one, from the Hebrew, the other from the LXX, the student will find much information, in *The Collation* of Mr. Reeves, London, 1800. His work abounds with valuable adjustments of the Hebrew and Greek texts. The same may be affirmed also of a *Paraphrase and Annotations on the book of the Psalms*,

by the learned Dr. Hammond. London, 1659. It is comparatively little known, but forms an admirable specimen of the mutual illustrations of the Hebrew, and the LXX. It is only fair, however, to add, that Hammond gives a decided preference, to the Hebrew text. The citations in the New Testament are taken chiefly *verbatim*, from the LXX. A learned and accurate account of the Psalter version may be found, in *Bona De Reb. Liturg. lib. 2, cap. 3*, pp. 297-301. Rom. 1671. It contains much valuable information respecting the LXX.—Bp. Horne allows, that the Apostles generally cited from the Greek of the LXX version, and *took it as they found it*, &c. (Preface). This appears but a lame apology for inspired writers, *if* they cited from an incorrect version. He was endeavouring to account, for what is improperly called, the *imprecatory* language of some of the Psalms, in which, the LXX literally follow the Hebrew. For both, a similar explanation may be offered, that the language is not imprecatory, but *denunciatory*. Our translators have given Acts i. 20, Rom. xi. 9, too strong a meaning, by inserting the word “*let his habitation,*” and “*let his table,*” &c. St. Augustine, who constantly read and studied the Greek version, interpreted their language in a far milder tone: *Hæc non optando sunt dicta, sed optandi specie, prophetando, prædicta*. De Civitat. Dei. xvii. c. 19. And here it may be observed once for all, that, if our excellent translators had been more conversant with Septuagintal Greek, they would, on several occasions, have softened the Calvinistic tone, which they have imparted to many passages, both in the Old, and New Testament. Kuster, Dresigius, and Woll have shown, that in many texts, the force of the *middle* verb should have been preserved, where now it is rendered by the *passive*. See particularly Act. xiii. 48, Rom. vii. 14, ix. 22.

No. 10.

AS it is somewhat hazardous, in this country, even to allude to the Apocrypha; to avoid misapprehension, let me at once declare my sentiments, in the simple and decisive language of Augustine, “*In Apocryphis, etsi invenitur aliqua veritas, tamen*

propter multa falsa, nulla est canonica auctoritas. It is much to be deplored, that it was ever intermingled with the Canonical books; and especially, that Jerome should have given his high authority, to this Biblical confusion.

As a sincere Protestant, having made this acknowledgment, I hope, it will give no offence, if I briefly advert to some of the philological benefits, which may be derived from an attentive study of these Judaic books, in their relation to the LXX, and the New Testament. Though their style is essentially the same, as that of the LXX, it is somewhat more free, and approaches nearer to that of the New Testament. This difference arises, from their compositions being original, and not translations, (except Sirach), and also from their being composed at a later date, than the Alexandrian version. Representing the style of the Hellenistic Jews, till within a short period of the Christian era, whether as regards History or Philology, they are of great value, to fill up the intermediate space. So nearly do some chapters of the Maccabees approach to the diction of others, in the Acts of the Apostles, that, if it were not for the subject, but little difference could be found between them.

The two moral books, *The Wisdom of Sirach, and of Solomon*, are peculiarly valuable, as specimens of Jewish ethics, and throw much incidental light on various passages of the New Testament. There are several hundred words and phrases, not occurring in the LXX, which derive their best interpretation, from the Apocryphal writings.—It may be useful here to give the list of Hellenistic authorities. 1st. *The LXX.* 2nd. *The Apocrypha.* 3rd. *The New Testament.* 4th. *Philo.* 5th. *Josephus.* 6th. *The Apostolic Fathers.* 7th. *The Pseudepigraphal Writers*, comprehending those published by Fabricius and Thilo, especially, *Evangelium Nicodemi.* To these may be added, some of the earlier *Reliquiæ Sacræ*, as edited by Grabe, and Routh. The labours of Bretschneider on the Apocryphal writings, should always be mentioned with esteem.

No. 11.

THERE is an ambiguity, as Professor Stuart has rightly observed,* in the use of the words *Canon*, and *Canonical*, in the ancient writers, which has frequently led theological students into serious mistakes. Sometimes, they are used as equivalent to our word *inspired*, and at others, only as equal to our word *authoritative*, i. e. *readable, in the public worship of the Church*. In this Apology, I have ventured to take them occasionally in both these significations, and to adapt both, to the purpose of the argument.

But, it may be objected, that I have also used the word *Canonical*, in a more extensive sense than usual, by applying it, not only to the *number* of the books in the Old Testament, (which is the same in the Hebrew and LXX); but also to the *textual distinction* arising from the Original, or the Version. If any defence be required on this point, it must be found, in the nature of this Apology.—That the early Fathers, especially Augustine, regarded the Septuagint version, as *Canonical*, in both senses, there can be no question. Nor is it possible to forget or avoid such language, when advocating the same opinion, as theirs, on the subject of the Canon. I have used it, therefore, in reference to the LXX sometimes, as implying divine inspiration; at others, as confined to that ecclesiastical authority, which pertains to writings, publicly read in the assemblies of the early Christians.

To explain this use of the word, let us suppose, that the *Samaritan Pentateuch* had been introduced into some ancient Church, instead of the Hebrew. We should immediately charge that Church, with having introduced an *uncanonical* version. And why? 1st. Because the origin of that version was, not only obscure and unsatisfactory; but, because it had been made for the use of professed schismatics, or seceders from the Jewish Church. 2nd. Because it had never been publicly used in any Jewish synagogue. 3rd. Because it was not ratified, or recognized by Christ, or the Apostles. 4th. Because it had never

* Section ii. Definition of Canon, pp. 22-29.

been esteemed as canonical, by the Christian Church.—Now, these are precisely the criterions, by which, we prove the Scriptural and Canonical authority of the LXX.

It is now, indeed, of the utmost importance to be explicit on the subject of the Canon, since a party has arisen, even within our Church, which joins the continental neologists, in their “dissolving views,” respecting any positive, or *objective*, Canon of Scripture. It is the characteristic of this school, to represent everything in Theology, as chiefly *subjective*, and thus to bring the Bible, as a written Revelation, to the bar of human reason. Under the profession of spiritualising whatever is material, and of exalting the internal, over the external, evidences of Christianity, it silently undermines all historical fact, and leaves us *poor indeed*, to toy and trifle with our own imaginations.

When *Satan* assumes the appearance of an angel of light, he approaches in his most dangerous and fascinating aspect, and when it is represented, that christian piety can flourish, without external ordinances, or that christian truth can be established, independently of the *written* Word of God, we are reminded of his old pretence, to give us all the world, if we but fall down and worship him.

It is just at such a crisis of the written Canon, that an Apology for the LXX may claim the attention and regard of all prudent and reflecting Christians. The Greek Version should be admitted, as Canonical, not only on its own account, but because it stands pledged and united to both Testaments. It exhibits the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament, stereotyped in that Hellenistic Greek, in which we have received the Canon of the New Testament. It imparts that unity and compactness to the Word of God, which, at once transforms it into *the sword of the Spirit*. Next to the folly of being *ashamed of the Cross of Christ*, is the folly of being ashamed of that book, from which, he probably learned to read the ancient Scriptures, and which he delights to quote and ratify, in his own discourses. The safety and integrity of our Biblical Canon can never satisfactorily be established, till the authority of the Septuagint is recognised, as the sole Canonical Interpreter of the Hebrew text.

The truth of this observation cannot be better illustrated, than by considering the strong and unnatural position, in which the Septuagint now stands, in reference both to the believer, and unbeliever of Christianity. "It has been made an objection to the plenary Inspiration of the New Testament," says an able writer in the *Biblical Cyclopædia* (Article *Inspiration*), "that they generally quote from the LXX Version, and that these quotations are frequently wanting in exactness. Our reply is, that the quotations are made in the usual manner, according to the dictates of common sense, and always in such a way, as to subserve the cause of truth, and therefore, that the objection is without foundation.—As to the Septuagint version, the Apostles never quote it, so as to interfere with the authority of the Hebrew Scriptures. Their references to the Old Testament, are just used, as the case requires. There is a noble freedom in their quotations, but that freedom never violates truth or propriety."—It is in consonance with this statement, that M. Gaussen has entitled The Third Section of his *Theopneustia, The Use of the Septuagint Version*, and arranged it under the head of *The Examination of Objections!*

Is it not strange and unnatural to find the Septuagint quotations, classed amongst Infidel objections, when it is remembered, that, during the three first centuries of the Church, no such thoughts or animadversions could have been entertained, either by the believers, or unbelievers of the Gospel? Would any Christian, of the three first centuries, have deemed it necessary to apologise for the citation of the LXX, in the New Testament?

The reply which is here given, is totally unsatisfactory, in regard to an *Inspired Record*, which does not *profess to be made after the usual manner, nor according to the dictates of Common Sense*. Once assume the *Inspiration* of the New Testament, and you place it in a category, distinct from all ordinary compositions.—Nor is the subsequent remark correct, *that the Apostles never follow it, so as to interfere with the Hebrew*. It is surprising, that this able writer should have hazarded such an asser-

tion, when it is well known, there are numerous citations in the New Testament, which differ materially, from the original Text.*

This confusion arises from our rejection of the Septuagint, as a Canonical version of Divine authority. *The noble freedom of their quotations* belongs quite as much to those, derived from the Hebrew text, as to others, from the Greek version.—How surprised and shocked the early Christians would have been, by such a defence of the New Testament! It never entered into the minds of Celsus or Porphyry, to urge such objections, because the Septuagint was then not supposed of inferior value, to the Hebrew.

Nor can the plenary Inspiration of the New Testament ever be defended, unless we satisfactorily defend its numerous quotations from the LXX. But this can never be accomplished, by putting them on a level *with the dictates of common sense*, nor by supposing them *to be made in the usual manner*.—*Common sense* applies to the ordinary state of the understanding, and books *made after the usual manner*, are, by no means, characteristic of Divine Inspiration. The result is plain and obvious.—We must either return to the sentiments of the primitive Church, respecting the Greek version of the Old Testament; or we must submit to the taunts of Infidels, and what is far more painful, to the secret misgivings of our own consciences.

The hypothesis, which Dr. Lee has recently advocated, and for which he assumes no little credit, † viz. that the grammatical and literal sense of the citations in the New Testament is to be distinguished, from their spiritual and exegetical import, cannot be admitted, I think, as adequate to explain the peculiar discrepancies of quotation between the LXX, and the Hebrew text, because it will apply equally to both. But, if intended, as

* Appendix, No. 6.

† *Unum me monstrásse, ni fallor, gloriarer : Crisin sc. literalem, à crisi exegeticá didacticá, alienam prorsùs esse, atque jure ita esse debere.* Proleg. IV, § 3, c. 18.

a general solution of all variations in quotation, from their exact and original meaning, it is but a development of the doctrine of Origen, applied to citations, and thus converting citations into parallels. This hypothesis may be tenable, if limited to passages of mere adaptation; but it will not avail to historical appeals, to prophetic predictions, or to the purposes of strict argument.—If cautiously admitted, it forms a fresh illustration of parity between the Hebrew and Greek Old Testament, in their essential relation to the New.

No. 12.

IN this “Apology,” it has not been felt necessary to introduce any distinct notice of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*, on account of the great obscurity of its origin, the slight value now generally attached to its text, and the small influence which it could possess, on the general argument. The time was, when this Version was high in repute, and when it might have been worthy to trace its relation to the Greek Version; but it has now fallen so much in critical reputation, that a few cursory remarks may suffice, for the purposes of this enquiry.—As the Christian Church was planted in Samaria, immediately after the death of Stephen (see Acts viii.); the Samaritan Pentateuch was never of any doctrinal repute in the Primitive Church, which universally received the Septuagint.—Its existence was scarcely recognised.

It is now generally admitted, that the Samaritan Pentateuch is not, for a moment, to be compared with the Hebrew text, in critical value, and that its readings, when unsupported by other authority, are seldom, if ever, to be preferred. In its chronology, it approaches to the LXX. It is also admitted, that the Samaritan Pentateuch generally agrees with the LXX, and occasionally, when it differs from the Hebrew. A slight example of this occurs in Matth. xix. 5, where the words *οἱ δύο* are found in the Samaritan and the LXX, but not in the Hebrew; see also Gen. iv. 8, where the words *διέλωμεν εἰς τὸ πεδῖον* in the LXX, are supported by the Samaritan version.

The principal value of the Samaritan Pentateuch, in reference

to the LXX, consists, first, in showing, that the vowel points and accents in Hebrew are not coeval with the language itself, and therefore, it fortifies the hypothesis, that the LXX translated from unpointed MSS. Secondly, that the variations from the Hebrew text, which are found in the Samaritan Pentateuch and in the LXX, must have been of as great antiquity, as can be claimed for the former. But the latest date, which can be assigned to the Samaritan Pentateuch, is the age of Ezra. This fact is of importance, as it proves how unjustly the LXX have been charged, with translating from recent and imperfect MSS.

Those who are anxious to see the variations of the Samaritan Pentateuch from the Hebrew and the LXX, should consult Whiston's Appendix No. 1, in his "*Essay on the Text of the Old Testament.*" Lond. 1722. It was once supposed that the LXX might have translated from the Samaritan! But this would at once have destroyed all their credit with the Alexandrian Jews, unless they were Samaritans. How then could Josephus or Philo have believed, in the Divine origin of the Septuagint? How could our Saviour, or the Apostles, have given it their sanction?—I only mention this absurd hypothesis of Hassen-camp, to show the readiness of all parties, to throw discredit and obloquy on the Greek Version.

Dr. H. Owen, at the end of his *Account of the LXX*, has a Dissertation on the comparative excellence of the Hebrew and Samaritan Pentateuch (London, 1787), in which, he appears somewhat too favourable to the latter; but it is well deserving of the reader's attention. Owen had great merit, in discussing this subject, when few cared for such enquiries, and his different tracts are well deserving of republication. There is also much information respecting it, in Walton's "*Prolegomenon xi.*," in Kitto's *Biblical Cyclopædia*, and in *Davidson's Ninth Letter on Biblical Criticism*.

From the relative position of the Samaritan Pentateuch, to the Hebrew text and the Greek version, I think we may deduce these important conclusions:—1st. That, the Hebrew text ever remained of supreme authority at Jerusalem; whilst the Septuagint was considered, as secondary, but of great and legitimate

importance: this we may term the *Temple Canon*. 2nd. That, in Samaria, a defective and heretical canon was prevalent, confined to the *Samaritan Pentateuch*. 3rd. That, in Galilee, the Septuagint was in general use in the synagogues, and was held of equal authority, with the Original. This we term, *the Hellenistic Canon*.—It was this, which descended, through Christ and the Apostles, to the Primitive Church.

As to the remains of the *Greek version*, (Τὸ Σαμαρείτικον) of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*, they are too few and desultory, as Dr. Davidson has remarked, to render them of any critical value. Had they been more numerous or continuous, they would have been of the highest importance, in augmenting our knowledge of Hellenistic phraseology. See Montfaucon's "Prælim. Hexap. Orig." cap. 1, § 9; and Professor Lee's "Prolegom. ii." § 15.

No. 13.

THE philological argument, as here stated, relates principally to those leading doctrinal terms, which are used alike in the LXX. and the New Testament. But it may be proper also to advert to the essential coincidence of Divine titles, ascribed to Jehovah in the LXX. and to Jesus in the New Testament. Of these, the most remarkable is that in Exod. iii. 14, Ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ Ὄν—ὁ Ὄν ἀπέσταλκέ με πρὸς ὑμᾶς. Now, it is remarked by Glassius,* Carpov,† and others, that the same Divine title is ascribed to our Lord, in several passages of the New Testament. See John i. 18; iii. 13; vi. 46; Rom. ix. 5; Apoc. i. 4, 8. The same title, ὁ Ὄν, is repeatedly used by Philo. See particularly *De Mund. Opific. sub fin.*—It may be questioned, whether such passages, in the New Testament, could have been clearly understood, if they had not been thus illustrated by the LXX.

There is another, and somewhat similar, expression, Ἐγὼ εἰμι, to denote the divinity of Christ, which is also transferred from

* Philolog. Sacr. p. 355, Edit. Dathe.

† Carpov. ad Heb. passim.

the Septuagint; it occurs frequently both in the New Testament,* and the LXX. But the coincidence between Esa. xliii. 10, and Joan viii. 24, is so striking, as to demand particular notice.—It is still more doubtful, whether such a passage could be understood without the corresponding interpretation of the LXX. See Esa. xlv. 6; xlviii. 12; Apoc. i. 11.—Whoever will condescend to consult my labours, will find, that almost every page of the New Testament admits of similar observations.—Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, (Ps. cxv. 10.)—καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν. (2 Cor. iv. 13.)—It is for the reader to decide, whether the Version, which has been thus appropriated to convey the most sublime mysteries of the Gospel, and without which, the doctrinal phraseology of the New Testament would have been scarcely intelligible, be not formed of materials, which entitle it to be esteemed of Divine authority.

The sublime doctrine, so satisfactorily proved by Bishop Bull in his *Defence of the Nicene Creed*, that, by the sole study of the LXX, the early Church, not only maintained the proper Divinity of Christ, but inferred his pre-existence, as the Divine personage, who appeared to the Patriarchs, must for ever suffice to prove, that the Version of the LXX is sufficient to demonstrate every doctrine of orthodox Christianity. In that noble "*Defence*," you may look in vain for a single word of Hebrew. It is confined exclusively to the comments of the Greek *Ante-Nicene* Fathers. This is a decisive testimony to the Scriptural value and authority of the Greek Version, and should silence those, who absurdly seek to undervalue it, by contrasting it with the Hebrew text. During the canonical reign of the LXX, *i. e.* for the first three centuries, it should be remembered, that the Church retained much of her original purity, and produced Saints and Martyrs, whose faith and constancy can never be excelled.

How different is the aspect of Christendom at the present pe-

* To avoid using words, conveying a sacred import, St. Paul, when speaking of himself, sometimes reverses their order, εἰμι ἐγώ. Rom. xi. 1, 13; 1 Tim. i. 15.—This is a delicate and refined attention to verbal associations.

riod! Secular knowledge of every kind has been carried to a height, of which the early Christians could form no imagination. Nay, even the historical evidences of the Gospel are now much better understood, than they could have been, at that early age of the Church. But look at the general aspect of Christianity on the Continent, where the study of Hebrew has been carried, as it is thought, to its highest perfection; and contrast their religious and doctrinal sentiments, with those of the primitive believers. You will then discover, how much of the sobriety and humility of scientific theology depends, on a reverential esteem of that version of the Old Testament, which forms the central bond of Holy Writ.—The man, who habitually collates the Hebrew with the Septuagint, and who finds their best and brightest mirror in the New Testament, will never become the victim of Neology, or Pantheism.

In these observations, we are chiefly alluding to the state of theological studies, on the Continent. But there is another, and very different cause, for the low estimation of Septuagintal, as compared with Hebraic knowledge, in this country. We inherit this prejudice, as Protestants; it has come down to us, from the first Reformers. But of late years, this sentiment has been much augmented, by a strong current to the study of prophecy, particularly to the expected return of the Jews, and the approach of the Millennial age.—I do not feel myself at liberty to hazard any opinion, on such obscure investigations. Many wise and good men have entertained very different sentiments, on these prophetic topics.—They are here alluded to, only as *facts* and *phenomena*, which may serve to account for the present high *premium* (to adopt the language of commerce), attached to the study of Hebrew, and the great *discount*, at which, the study of the LXX. now stands amongst us.

But I would respectfully submit, that no attachment to prophetic enquiries, no expectation of an approaching Millennium, can justify any Christian, in the neglect of that Greek version, which was the main channel of bringing both Jews and Gentiles, into the pale of the early Church. The conversion of the Jews is not likely to be furthered, by fostering any contempt of a

version, made nearly 300 years, before the Christian era, and revered by Jewish rabbins, till they found it employed by Christians, to convict their rejection of Jesus, as the Messias. On the contrary, if we may reason, from the past to the future, their reception of Christianity will probably be associated, with their returning veneration of the Septuagint. When grafted upon the Christian Church, it seems highly credible, their conversion may be effected, by that sacred instrument, which can alone enable them to read and understand the Old and New Testament, as the expositors of each other.

There is one point, which should never be lost sight of, in our communication with the Jews, viz.—that they are to be converted to Christianity, not that Christianity is ever to be converted into Judaism. It is not, by confirming Jews in their ancient pride and prejudice, as a chosen and peculiar people, that they are likely to be engrafted on the stock of the Christian Church. I have met with many converted Jews, who evidently looked down upon Christians, as their inferiors and secondaries. Instead of cherishing their temporal hopes of returning to Jerusalem, if the prejudices of their Rabbins could be overcome by the LXX. it is probable, they would drop that latent assumption of spiritual superiority, which, even Jewish converts are now too apt to indulge, and which forms their strongest bar, to the full reception of the Gospel.—The Hebrew convert is but half Christian; the Hellenist convert is an entire Christian.

No. 14.

MAY I be permitted, without giving offence, to hazard a few remarks, on the imperfect and desultory manner, in which the Greek Testament is generally studied at our public Schools, nay, even at our Universities?—It would scarce be credited, that whilst the most unremitting attention is given to the study of heathen authors, so little regular provision is made for the critical study of that peculiar Greek, in which the LXX. and New Testament are confessedly allowed to have been composed.—In the days of Blackwall, attempts were made to associate the

beauties of the classics, with the style of the Greek Testament, and youths were taught to compare Pindar and Anacreon, with passages in the Evangelists, or Epistles. Nay, even Wetstein, in his elaborate Edition of the Greek Testament, does not disdain to notice the most hacknied passages in the Greek and Latin classics, and to compare them with doctrines, dictated by the Holy Spirit. Many of these, I am sorry to say, would ill bear to appear, in an English garb. The result of such comparisons, it is to be feared, cannot be very favourable to the piety of the pupils. Nor can it be more conducive to their good taste. The beauties of the Classics are so entirely distinct, from those of the Hebrew or Hellenistic writers, that it is worse than useless, as Valckenaer has remarked, to institute any comparison between them. Let each be estimated by their own standard; but "Chaos will come again," ere we can view them through the same medium.

At all events, no purely theological taste can be formed, by a mixture so heterogeneous. The Sacred Scriptures require to be compared with Jewish, not with pagan, writers. When the Greek Testament is the subject of study, the pupils should be told, "*they are standing on holy ground,*" and no profane footsteps should be admitted to intrude. Till the plain line of demarcation is drawn between sacred and secular literature, there is little hope of the generality of elegant and accomplished scholars, becoming profound and accurate divines.*

To promote this union, may I be permitted to suggest, that some portion of the LXX. should be systematically introduced amongst the seniors at our public schools, and more especially, at the College Lectures, in our Universities? Till this is effected, there is little hope of the critical study of the Greek Testament, becoming prevalent amongst us. The perpetual recollection of our own excellent English translation forms a peculiar obstacle, which can hardly be surmounted, but by constantly inter-

* For much valuable information on these and many kindred topics, relating to the study of the Greek Testament, I would refer to a masterly Critique, in *The Christian Remembrancer*, April, 1848.

posing the Version of the LXX, and thus breaking off the association. If more be required, I would recommend the Apostolic Fathers, with some portion of Josephus, or Philo. The result would be, that we should read our Greek Testament, with a Hellenistic taste, without which, its peculiar phraseology can scarcely be appreciated. With all their errors, it must be allowed, that the Germans have bestowed far greater attention, on the cultivation of sacred criticism. Nay, even the Dissenting Academies, though they do not produce classical scholars, equal to those of our public schools, yet, more than rival us, I fear, in what may be strictly termed, a *theological* education.—“I began,” says a late eminent Dissenter, “about the year 1785, to read the Septuagint version regularly, in order to acquaint myself more fully with the phraseology of the New testament. The study of this Version served more to expand and illuminate my mind, than all the theological books, I had ever consulted. I had proceeded, but a short way in it, before I was convinced, that all the prejudices against it were utterly unfounded; and that it was of incalculable advantage, towards a proper understanding of the literal sense of Scripture.” Adam Clarke’s Preface to the Bible.

Nothing, perhaps, would more tend to improve the study of Biblical learning at our Universities, than the enlargement of the professorial duties of the Hebrew Chair, by connecting it with the study of the Greek version. The Hebrew Professor should be considered, as Professor of Hebrew-Greek, and his Prelections should relate equally to the Original, and the Version. By such a union, mutual facility and pleasure would be diffused over these studies, and their conjoint Canonical value would be recognised. It would then remain for the Professor of Divinity, to direct that philological knowledge to the *doctrinal* study of the Old and New Testament.—It gives me pleasure to notice the *Exegetical Essay on the three Gospels* of Mr. Huxtable, as indicative of a joint attention to the Hebrew and LXX. At p. 25, he satisfactorily shows, that the quotations Matt. iii. 3, Mark i. 23, Luke iii. 4—7, John i. 23 “are, in all the Evangelists, either mediately or immediately, derived from the Septuagint, and not from the Hebrew.”

I cannot close this Note, without expressing my painful convictions, that the absence of Septuagint authority, is the fatal defect, in Bishop Middleton's *Doctrine of the Greek Article, as concerns the New Testament*. Admirably, as he has shown his extensive and accurate knowledge of Classic Greek, he appears not to have paid much attention, to the LXX. Version. His examples should have been taken, not from Classic, but, from Hellenistic Greek. As far as I can judge, he would have derived no support for his theory, from the LXX. or from the writings of Philo, or Josephus. This, I apprehend, is fatal to the grammatical argument, *theologically* considered. The testimony of the LXX. would have been of far more value, on such a subject, than the whole phalanx of the Greek Classics. The testimonies, which Dr. Wardworth subsequently collected from the Greek Fathers, prove nothing more than their acquaintance with Classic writers, or their verbal imitation of the New Testament. In making this avowal of opinion, respecting Bishop Middleton's treatise, I beg it will be distinctly understood, that I only speak of the *grammatical* argument, *in its relation to the New Testament*. Indeed, it is utterly incredible, that Galilean fishermen should have paid any attention to such grammatical *minutiae*.— But it marks the low estimate of the Greek Version amongst us, that such a profound Scholar, as Bishop Middleton, had not made it an especial object of study. — Of all our Divines, Bishop Pearson, has proved himself the best Septuagintalist. Amongst the Commentators, Beza and Grotius have applied the LXX. with most effect, in their illustrations of Scripture.

No. 15.

IN most of the accounts, which have been given of the peculiarities of the Hellenistic style of the LXX. sufficient weight, I think, has not been attributed to the fact, that they were *Jewish translators*, who were religiously devoted to the Hebraic original. There appears too much attempt, on the part of Sturzius and others, to insist on a peculiar Greek dialect, previously existing at Alexandria. That the LXX. version might have taken some

slight tinge from the provincial Greek there spoken, is highly probable. But, since no other Alexandrian writers have left us any specimen of the same style, as the LXX. I think, we may safely infer, that their *chief* peculiarities were owing, to their being *Jewish Interpreters*, who felt it their duty to adhere, as closely as possible, to the style of the Inspired Original.

Every translator is, no doubt, to some extent, influenced by the style and language of the authors, which he translates; but a Jew, translating the Holy Scriptures into Greek, would place himself, under a far more constraining influence. Viewing those around, as Heathen, he would, as much as possible, avoid all common and secular phraseology, by endeavouring to preserve that sacred idiom, which he deemed, the mark and *shibboleth* of the Mosaic œconomy. The attempts of Raphelius, Elsner, &c. to illustrate Hebraic Greek, from some stray expressions in the classical writers, are, as Valckenaer observes, of very small value, nay, are sometimes mischievous. They decoy us, from the Hebraic or Hellenistic, to the classic, meaning. In investigating the force of any *doctrinal* expression, they are not of the slightest authority.

The Hellenistic style of the LXX. and of the New Testament, is essentially based on the Hebrew idiom. With the exception of a few grammatical peculiarities, its characteristics are exclusively belonging to its Jewish origin. You may learn more, by turning over the Lexicons of Kircher and Tromm, than by all the grammatical speculations of Winer, or from the whole host of metaphysical Philologists.

The peculiar value of the LXX. Version consists, in its transferring the doctrinal and sacrificial terms of the ancient Hebrews, into the same phraseology, as that, which was subsequently adopted by the Evangelists and Apostles. To those, who are satisfied with availing themselves of the light, the Version is sufficient.—To others, who are not satisfied, without analysing the light, the Hebrew and Syriac are necessary. The Hellenistic idiom cannot be explained, however, by anything further.—The knowledge of Arabic may serve to illustrate Hebrew etymologies, but it will not conduce to pointing out the connexion between

Hebrew and Greek. It cannot illustrate the idiom either of the LXX. or the New Testament, still less, can it determine the force of any doctrinal term.

These observations are designed to define the marks and bounds, which strictly belong to a Theological education, apart from those interminable pursuits, which the German neologists would now represent, as the proper ends and objects of Theological enquiry. To those, who devote their lives, to the professed study of Philology, the knowledge of all languages, whether ancient or modern, may be thought fit and desirable. But, it is consoling to the Christian Divine, to know, that a competent knowledge of the Hebrew text and the Septuagint, is all that is requisite, to render him thoroughly conversant with the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.—I am speaking only of *Theological* requirements.

The Hebraic, or Hellenistic Greek, constitutes the *sacred* idiom, as distinguished from the classic, or profane. To keep them apart, not to blend them, is the characteristic of theological good taste—nay it is, I apprehend, something more. *It constitutes the garb and livery of sound doctrine.*—If you attempt to attire the language of the Scriptures, in a classic form, you are in danger of substituting heathen ethics, for Christian morals, by bringing down the doctrines of the Bible, to the level of human speculations.

The Divine Wisdom, or, as I would rather term it, *the verbal Inspiration* which characterizes the Greek Version of the Old Testament, is chiefly developed, by enabling the translators to use Greek words, in such peculiar acceptations, as might gradually discipline and dispose the mind, to embrace the peculiar doctrines of Divine Revelation, and thus prepare for the advent of the Gospel Dispensation.—Thus πιστός, in profane writers, signifies, one who adheres to truth in his promises, or is worthy of credit, and ἄπιστος signifies a liar, or one unworthy of credit. But, in the Hellenistic idiom, he is called πιστός who gives credit to another, and he ἄπιστος, who is unbelieving, or, will not give credit. So, δίκαιος, in the LXX. and the New Testament, is one, whom the *Judge* pronounces innocent, i. e. whom he absolves, or par-

dons. Whereas *δικαίος*, in Classic Greek, signifies one, who is *just in himself*, and on his own account,—*rectus in curiá*,—who therefore needs no pardon.—Hence the word *δικαιοῦν*, in Classic Greek, means to adjudge, and even to punish;—never to absolve, or pardon.—It is needless to add, that the doctrine of Christian Justification depends on this verbal, yet essential, difference.

When Augustine claimed for the LXX. the privilege of Divine aid in carrying on their Version, no doubt, he was led, by his deep knowledge of human nature, to infer this Divine help, from their adoption of such remarkable phraseology. He considered, that, nothing less than supernatural assistance, could have enabled Alexandrian Jews, to anticipate the very names, terms, and intents of Christian theology.—Though it may expose me to ridicule, I make the same avowal.—The inspiration of the Hellenistic Greek of the New Testament appears to establish the corresponding fact,—the antecedent inspiration of the Hellenistic Version of the Old Testament. Let the reader meditate the moral and spiritual import of these doctrinal terms,—*ἀγάπη, ἀγιάζειν, ἅγια ἄγιων, ἅγιον πνεῦμα, ἁγιοσύνη, ἁπατή τῆς ἀμαρτίας, βεβαιοῦσθαι τὴν καρδίαν, βεβαιούμενος ἐν τῇ πίστει, δικαιοσύνη, δικαίωσις, ἐδραῖος, ἐκκαεῖν, ἐντυγχάνειν τινι—ὑπέρτινος, εὐχαριστεῖν, στηρίζειν, ἐπιστηρίζειν τὰς ψυχὰς &c. &c.* From such expressions in the LXX. and the New Testament, he will be able to judge, how far this theory of verbal inspiration is justified. The diligent study of Valckenaer's *Schola in Nov. Test.* will much assist him, in these researches.

This view of the Greek Version may be still further illustrated, by considering, that the Septuagint is, by no means, a close or literal interpretation of the Hebrew text, that it often amplifies, and often abbreviates, and that it not unfrequently gives a distinct sense, which is more accommodated to the purposes of the New Testament. Hence it is, that this Version is often quoted by Jesus and the Apostles, when it clearly differs from the Original. The comprehensive character of the Septuagint can never be understood, unless viewed as a stepping-stone to the New Testament, not a servile translation of the Hebrew. Had the LXX. confined their version, to a strict and literal repre-

sentation of the Original text, their version never could have been adopted, as the vocabulary of the New Testament. It could not have been applied, to interpret the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel. The objections, which are urged against it on this subject, are the strongest evidences of its Divine Inspiration. Whilst it confers a new meaning on Greek words, distinct from that of classic writers; it also frequently modifies the Hebrew, to meet the more spiritual import of the *better covenant*.—Such a sacred peculiarity, is of itself, sufficient to intimate its supernatural character.

It may be questioned, indeed, whether the peculiar evidence, resulting from the intimate and continuous connexion of the New Testament, with the language and phraseology of the LXX. has hitherto been sufficiently appreciated and developed. It is such a degree of philological coincidence, as pertains to no other composition, whether ancient, or modern. There is not a single versicle, in the New Testament, which may not be illustrated, both in thought and expression, from the Alexandrian Version. After more than twenty years of diligent examination, I am constantly alighting on new correspondences. We may challenge infidels to produce, from all the books which ever have been written, any thing, which can even approach such a singular phenomenon.

If this identity had taken place between any two single authors, it might have been assigned, to a studied and artful imitation. But, as the Old and New Testament is composed of a great variety of distinct writers, each of whom has some characteristic style and manner, this general and pervading likeness, is something marvellous and singular. It cannot, I think, be accounted for, on any ordinary theories of human nature, and till some rational solution can be given, we are justified in viewing it, as peculiar to Divine Inspiration. *It is the unity of the Spirit*.—These *verbal* coincidences, when carried out, to such an amazing extent, are no less real, though less striking, than the coincidences of *fact*, collected in Paley's *Horæ Paulinæ*, and they may be logically considered, when grouped, as forming a kind of *philological* evidence for Divine Revelation.—But everything,

in such evidence, depends, on the aggregate and amount of the examples.—It is altogether *cumulative*.

Having furnished the *data* of this new and striking species of grammatic evidence, for the authenticity of the New Testament, may I be permitted to offer a few observations on its nature and extent? Considered merely as expositive, it is extremely valuable. It provides us, with the exact and scriptural import of every word and phrase, apart from all metaphysical speculation, and all doctrinal controversy. To collate parallel words, expressions, and thoughts, between the LXX. and the New Testament, is the most exact method of arriving at their real meaning, without provoking any party passions, or opinions.

But this is not the philosophic view of such evidence. It would have been scarcely worth the time and labour, to have employed such enormous drudgery, on any merely philological enquiries. The problem to be solved was this: *Can you, by the process of exhaustion, or as it were, by superimposition, make it appear, that the entire phraseology of the New Testament, even in its minutest point, is identical, with the words, thoughts, and expressions of the LXX?*

After many years of unabated labour, the result of this universal collation has been submitted to the public, and it may now be assumed, I trust, that this question is satisfactorily answered.—As a fact, a phenomenon, peculiar to the New Testament and the LXX. it may justly challenge enquiry into its nature and origin. The solution, which I humbly proposed is this—that it arises out of the *verbal* inspiration of *both*, and that it can be explained, on no other hypothesis.

With respect to the verbal Inspiration of the New Testament, perhaps it has not been sufficiently considered, that, as most of the conversations which are recorded in the Gospels, took place probably in the native and provincial dialect, they imply such a subsequent change into Septuagintal Greek, as could not have been safely accomplished, without the immediate and unerring influence of the Holy Spirit. This view of Inspiration, in relation to the *writers* of the Gospels, as distinct from the *speakers*, approaches very nearly to that species of Inspiration, which

we believe, was imparted to the Greek translators of the Old Testament. It was chiefly *verbal*, enabling them to transfer faithfully into Hellenistic Greek, what had before been spoken in the Syro-Chaldaic dialect. The first kind of Inspiration, was imparted to the original speakers,—the second to the translators.—We thus secure the *plenary* Inspiration of the Gospels, by uniting the real, to the verbal; the thought, to the language.

No. 16.

IT may seem somewhat narrow-minded and old-fashioned, in these days, to recommend the old Dutch critics and philologists, in preference to those of modern Germany, as far safer guides, in the study of Sacred Scripture. The School of Holland began with Drusius, arrived at maturity with Grotius, and was continued by Lampe, Markius, and Vitringa, &c. Amongst its Scriptural philologists, the names of Leusden, Vorstius, Bos, Schultens, Alberti, and Valckenaer will ever remain illustrious. There is a vein of moderation and good sense in these writers, blended with devotion and submission to the Holy Scriptures, which should ever recommend them, to the attention of the Christian scholar and divine. The annotations of Krebsius and Ottius, on Josephus; of Læsnér, Hornman, and Carpzov, on Philo, are of indispensable value, in elucidating the style of the LXX. and the New Testament. — In the biographies of Wytténbach and Ruhken, the reader will find many pleasing anecdotes of these eminent scholars.

No. 17.

LET me not disguise from the reader, that I had drawn up the whole of this Apology, before I arrived at the conviction, *that Jesus, when a child, was instructed in the knowledge of the LXX.* As in the course of my studies, I had never met with this suggestion, it did not occur, till reviewing the entire train of this enquiry, which may account for some apparent dislocation, in the subordinate arguments. Yet this inference seems

so obvious, that we may wonder, it has not been often dwelt on. As it is now proposed, I believe, the first time to public consideration, it is only respectful to support it, by such collateral evidence, as may familiarize its reception. Let me be pardoned, therefore, for exhibiting, somewhat in detail, the historical and local facts, on which it is based.

The parents of Jesus resided at Nazareth, a small village of Galilee, about ninety miles north of Jerusalem. This was the most northern division of Palestine, and far inferior to Judea, or Samaria, in civilization and repute. It was totally subdued 740 B. C. by Tiglath-Pileser, and its original Jewish inhabitants led captive into Assyria. (2 Kings, xv. 29.) Galilee was divided into two provinces, the Upper, and the Lower. The former was called *Galilee of the Nations, or Gentiles*, (Esa. ix. 1,) because it had the larger proportion of heathen, mixed with Jewish inhabitants.

The coast of Galilee was well adapted for commerce, and through the port of Ptolemais (*hodiè* Acre), kept up a constant traffic with Alexandria. It is repeatedly mentioned in the Maccabees. Hence, the Greek version of the Old Testament found a ready access to the neighbouring regions. See 1 *Macc. v.* 15, 21, 55.—Ptolemais was amongst the earliest stations of the primitive Church. See Acts xxi. 7.

It was in the Lower Galilee Jesus resided, and here he chiefly remained, till about thirty years of age, paying only occasional visits to Jerusalem, at the great festivals. His mother, though of the regal family, was so reduced that, on her purification in the Temple, she offered the less costly oblation. Joseph, his reputed father, exercised the trade of a carpenter, and thus Jesus was educated amongst Galileans, in the humblest condition of society.

Now, there can be no question, that the Galileans had not only lost every vestige of the original Hebrew, at the Christian era, but, that their provincial Syro-Phœnician dialect was of the most rugged kind, in comparison with that of Judæa and Jerusalem. See Mark xiv. 70. The plain inference is this,—that Jesus was instructed by his parents, not in the Hebrew, but in the Greek

Version, of the Old Testament. And this inference is confirmed from the following fact—1st. That Mary, his mother, in her hymn of praise, Luc. i. 46-55, employs entirely Septuagintal expressions, which I had long since marked, *Citata ferè omnia*. 2nd. That, nearly all the quotations made by Jesus himself from the Old Testament are taken *verbatim* from the LXX. and occasionally, where they differ from the Hebrew (see Matt. xv. 8, 9); whilst several quotations made by the Evangelists, differ from the LXX. and agree with the Hebrew.

It is with pleasure, I make the following extract, from a masterly Article, which appeared in *The Quarterly Journal of Prophecy*, for October, 1849.

Quotations by our Lord from the Old Testament.

Matt. iv. 4; Luke iv. 4.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
iv. 6. [By Satan.]	. . .	Taken from the Septuagint.
iv. 7.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
iv. 10.	. . .	Taken from the Septuagint.
ix. 13; * xii. 7.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
xi. 10; Mark i. 2; Luke vii. 27.	. . .	} Differs from both Hebrew and Septuagint.
xiii. 14, 15; Mark iv. 12; Luke viii. 10.	. . .	
xv. 8, 9.	. . .	Differs from the Hebrew, agrees with the Septuagint.
xix. 5.	. . .	Taken from the Septuagint.
xix. 18, 19.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
xix. 19; xxii. 39.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
xxi. 13; Mark xi. 17; Luke xix. 46.	. . .	} Agrees both with Hebrew and Septuagint. Bloomfield on Mark; Govett on Isaiah lvi. 7. Not mentioned by Horne.
Matt. xxi. 16.	. . .	
xxii. 42; Mark xii. 10; Luke xx. 17.	. . .	} Verbatim with the Septuagint.
xxii. 32; Mark xii. 26; Luke xx. 37.	. . .	
xxii. 37; Mark xii. 30; Luke x. 27.	. . .	} Agrees with the Septuagint in sense, not in words; nearly agrees with the Hebrew.
xxii. 44; Mark xii. 36; Luke xx. 42.	. . .	
xxvi. 31.	. . .	Verbatim with the Septuagint.
xxvii. 46. [In Hebrew].	. . .	Differs from the Septuagint; agrees with the Hebrew.
Luke iv. 18, 19.	. . .	Taken from the Septuagint.
xxii. 37.	. . .	Agrees in sense, not in words, with the Septuagint. Exact with the Hebrew.

* But Moses Stuart says, this a direct translation from the Hebrew.

“Here it will be observed, that our Lord’s quotations almost universally agree with the Septuagint,* some of which, at the same time, differ from the Hebrew.”

Now, we may fairly, I think, deduce from these facts, that our Lord was instructed by his parents, in the Hellenistic version; and this is further confirmed, by remembering, that, when Jesus put the Scribes and Pharisees to silence, by the argument from Ps. cix. 1, he adopts the LXX. so literally, that, it could hardly apply to the Hebrew text. It should be remembered, that this argument was addressed, not to the multitude, but to those, who “sat on Moses’ seat,”—and that they made no objection to the quotation, being taken from the Greek version. Hence an irresistible inference arises, that the Version was esteemed, even by the Scribes and Pharisees in our Saviour’s age, of Biblical and Inspired authority.

The general deduction, that Jesus was himself instructed, from his childhood in the Greek Version, by no means, interferes with any knowledge, which he might possess, either supernaturally, or by his own study of the Jewish Scriptures. Thirty years form a long period even in an ordinary life. How inconceivably great and rapid must have been *His* growth, in Divine Wisdom, whilst he remained outwardly subject to his earthly parents! But we are merely called upon to record historical facts, and thence, to infer their probable result.—That Jesus was born and educated in Galilee, where no Hebrew was known, and where no Hebrew Scriptures were studied—that his parents were poor, and engaged in a handicraft employment—that his mother was conversant with the LXX. and that, immediately on entering upon his public ministry, he evinced his deep acquaintance with the Greek Version—that he argued from it with Scribes and Pharisees, and that they made no objection to its authority—nay—that, they marvelled at his Scriptural knowledge, knowing that he had not received a regular and learned education (see John vii. 15.)

* There are four exceptions,—Matt. xi. 10; xxii. 37; xxvii. 46; Luke xxii. 37; which shall be noticed after the theory has been propounded.

—these are the *data*, which we now submit, to the serious consideration of all who doubt, or deny, the Scriptural authority of the LXX.—If correct, they throw a flood of light on the Septuagintal citations of the Evangelists, they justify the Canon of the Primitive Church, and will henceforth indissolubly associate the Septuagint, with the nativity of Jesus.

As this is unquestionably the crowning argument of this Apology (*præsidium, et dulce decus meum!*), may I be indulged, in a few further observations on its nature and results?—Most happy should I be, to claim the authority of any commentator or divine, whether ancient or modern; but my researches do not enable me to mention a single author, who has alluded to it, either as fact, or hypothesis. That Jesus was instructed, from his cradle, in the knowledge of the Greek version of the Old Testament, will henceforth, if I mistake not, be considered as a self-evident and incontrovertible proposition, amongst theological students. The same inference will apply to all his disciples:—*Behold, are not all these men who speak, Galileans?* The prediction of Isaiah, cap. ix. 1, 2, will also hence derive a more striking and appropriate fulfilment. See Matt. iv. 15-25; xii. 18-21; Mark iii. 6, 7; John iv. 1; xi. 54.

The *Galilean* was the term of indignity and reproach, applied to Jesus, by Julian, and others of the ancient scoffers against Christianity. But they little thought, that an irresistible argument would be drawn, from that despised province, on behalf of *The Version, which Jesus delighted to honour.*

The Lower Galilee, it should be remembered, was the principal department of our Saviour's life and ministry. Its chief towns were, Tiberias, Chorazin, Bethsaida, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Nain, Cæsarea, and Ptolemais. The Galilean dialect, according to Buxtorff and Lightfoot, was of a broad and rustic tone, differing from the Judæan Syriac. It is probable, the Sermon on the Mount was originally delivered, in this provincial dialect; and that, when our Saviour preached in the smaller towns and villages, he also used it. See Mark v. 41. But when he preached in their synagogues (Matt. iv. 23; ix. 35; xii. 9; Mark i. 21, 39; iii. 1; vi. 2; John vi. 59,) it is probable, that he

used the Greek language, and the Greek Version. Certain, however, it is, that it all now comes to us alike delivered in Septuagintal Greek. The following passage is remarkable:—*There were certain Greeks, amongst them that came up to worship at the Feast; the same came to Philip, which was of Bethsaida, of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.* John xii. 20, 21. It should also be remembered, that Jesus made his first appearance to the Apostles, after his resurrection, on a mountain in Galilee, *Where, he had appointed them.* Matt. ii. 7, 16.

The only anecdote, which is related by the Evangelists, concerning Jesus during his youth, is that of his disputing with the doctors in the Temple, when he was twelve years of age. The subjects of debate are not recorded, but they probably referred to the predictions of the Ancient Scriptures. Nor is it recorded, whether the arguments were carried on, in the Hellenistic, or Syro-Phœnician dialect; we must therefore remain content with our ignorance.—But, when the narrative proceeds to inform us, that he returned with his parents to Nazareth, *and was subject unto them;* we can scarce understand any filial subjection, which did not imply diligence and care in his education, more especially, as it is added, *Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* Luke ii. 52.

Galilee, it should be remembered, was divided from Judæa, by the large intervening province of Samaria. This was inhabited by the Cuthites, who had partially assumed the Jewish profession, and were detested by the more regular Jews, residing at, or near, Jerusalem. Amongst the reproaches heaped on Jesus by the High priests and Pharisees, was one, that he was a *Samaritan* (John viii. 48); which, though false and unfounded, tends to show, that the Galileans were often confounded with the Samaritans, and held in the same low estimation. The communications between Galilee and Jerusalem were much impeded, by the mutual divisions of the Jews and Samaritans, as we may infer from the expression—*They (the Samaritans) did not receive him, because his face was, as though he would go to Jerusalem.* Luke ix. 53.—*The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.* John iv. 9.

It does not appear, I think, that any of the Scribes or Pharisees resided *constantly* in Galilee. They are mentioned as *coming down from Jerusalem*. Matt. xvi. 1; Mark iii. 22; vii. 1; viii. 11; Acts xxiv. 1, a phrase, which seems to denote, that they were deputed, from the high priest at Jerusalem, to go down to oppose the rising sect of the Nazarenes, without possessing any habitual residence in that province. Perhaps the same inference may be drawn, from the accusation laid against him, before Pilate:—*The chief priests said, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee, to this place*. Luke xxiii. 5. There is a distinction also made between the leaven of the Pharisees, and the leaven of Herod, v. 15, which intimates, that the jurisdiction of Herod had led to some difference of religious feelings, from those prevalent amongst the Jews, at the Capital. They were less under the influence of the Sanhedrim, and therefore more disposed to listen to the teaching of Jesus.

In the synagogues of Judea, it is probable, as we have mentioned, that the Hebrew text was read, accompanied with the Chaldee paraphrase; but, in the Synagogues of Galilee, it can scarcely be doubted, that the Greek Version was generally adopted. Indeed, this is rendered almost certain, from Luke iv. 17, 18, where the passage from Isaiah lxi. 1, accords with the LXX.—The vernacular language of Galilee was Syro-Chaldaic, which differs so little from that of the *Peshito*, that in Mark v. 41, there is no interpretation given of the words *Talitha cumi*. The same observation will apply to the last solemn words, uttered from the Cross. They are not Biblical Hebrew.

But, if we accept the hypothesis, so ably advocated by Diodati,* that Jesus *constantly* used the Greek language, the suggestion

* *De Christo Gracè loquenti*. Napoli. 1767, 8vo. reprinted by Dobbin, Lond. 1843, 12mo. I had not an opportunity of consulting this learned Work, till this Apology was well nigh printed off; but it gives me great pleasure to find, that Diodati accords with nearly all the facts and arguments, which I have adduced. He does not, however, touch *the suggestion*, though he comes very near it. He proves, with great force, the spread of the Greek over the East. The same fact may also be deduced, from various incidents in Xenophon's "*Anabasis*."

will follow, as a necessary corollary, *that he was taught, as a child, to read the Version of the LXX.* Indeed, it so admirably accords with that hypothesis, as to confer on it evidence, which it could not otherwise possess.

The Galileans in the neighbourhood of Nazareth, were strongly prejudiced against Jesus, from being acquainted with his humble parentage and connexions (see Mark vi. 2, &c.). But the knowledge of the Ancient Scriptures must have spread far and wide, by means of the LXX. over their coasts. The Syro-Phœnician woman (who is termed a *Greek* Mark vii. 26), saluted him, as *the Son of David*, Matt. xv. 22, a title, which she would have hardly learnt, but, from the Greek Version.

“ Was not our Lord a little child,
Taught by degrees to pray ;
By father dear, and mother mild,
Instructed day by day ?”—KEBLE.

—This suggestion, however, is not designed to favour any Arian, or Socinian theory. Something there was, no doubt, infinitely superior in the mind of Jesus, to all others, even from his infancy ; and this, I think, is plainly intimated :—*The Child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.* Luke ii. 40. But, with the deepest reverence for the divine character of Christ, we may modestly enquire into the probable means, employed by his parents, in his early education. Joseph, we are told, *was a just man* ; and Mary *kept these things, and pondered them in her heart.* They were zealously attached to the Mosaic law, and observant of all its precepts and ordinances. They, therefore, felt it their duty to bring up their child, in the love and knowledge of the Ancient Scriptures,—Scriptures—which could have been no other, as far as we can judge, than those of the Greek Version. It should be remembered, also, that the anthem of Zacharias, concerning the birth of John, is uttered in Septuagintal language ; and that the Annunciation to Mary, is likewise recorded in the same peculiar phraseology.

My defence for this long note, must be found, in the value of

the *fact* (if I may venture to call it so), *that Jesus was instructed, as a child, in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament.* This fact, if admitted, is essentially paramount and decisive. It supersedes all further argument or enquiry. It harmonizes every discordance, it explains every difficulty, and illustrates every obscurity.—Like the principle of gravity, it subdues and attracts all things to itself. If the fall of an apple were sufficient to intimate, to a philosopher, the centralization of the Universe; the fall of the Septuagint into the cradle at Nazareth, will be sufficient to intimate to a Christian, its Divine origin and its perpetual authority.

POSTSCRIPT.

In this Note (*Introduct.* p. 10), I have cited the *Vatican* text, which has been generally acknowledged superior to any other. It is proper, however, to observe, that it appears in no other edition, except the Complutensian, the MSS. of which have never been produced. It is altogether absent from the Alexandrian MS. and from the Aldine Edit. (1518).—In the Frankfort Edit. (1597) there is this note, *al. addunt ἐπικάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ ἀδελφῆς τῆς γυναικὸς αὐτοῦ.* In the Basil. Edit. 1530, it is *μετὰ πενθερᾶς αὐτοῦ*, but the Latin version is, *cum sorore uxoris suæ!* Bos gives the authority of an Oxford MS. *τοῦ πατρός, deinde eandem maledictionem repetit, et pro τοῦ πατρὸς habet τοῦ μητρός.* Breitinger remarks, *Cod. Rom.* hæc intertextit, *ἐπικατάρατος κ. τ. λ.*

This passage is absent from all the MSS. (136) collated by Holmes, except Nos. 54, 75. The first, is of little, the latter, of great value, being the celebrated *Codex Oxoniensis*, above cited by Bos.—It is absent also, from the standard text of the Greek Church, and from *all* the ancient Oriental Versions.—It is not alluded to by Philo, or Josephus, or, in the controversy between Augustine and Jerome.—With such strong evidence against the Vatican MS. I am compelled to come to the painful conclusion, that it is an *interpolation*, and that such

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