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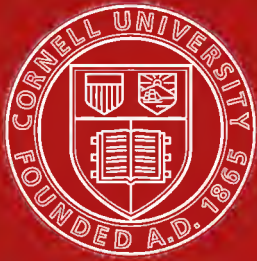
THE REVISION

OF THE VULGATE

A REPORT.



ST. ANSELM'S
ROME _____
1909. _____



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THE REVISION

OF THE VULGATE

A REPORT.



ST. ANSELM'S

ROME

1909.

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THE REVISION OF THE VULGATE

In May 1907 it was announced in the public press that the Pope had determined to prepare for a critical revision of the Latin Bible. The need for such a revision is well known. In spite of all the care which had been bestowed upon the



His Holiness, Pope Pius X.

preparation of the present authentic edition published by Pope Clement VIII in 1592, it has been recognised from the first that the text would have to be revised some day. Generations have passed by, however, without the realisation of this expectation. It has, indeed, been sometimes urged as a reproach upon the authorities of the Catholic Church that

nothing had been done in so important a work: and in this, which is preeminently an age of critical examination, it would certainly appear proper that well recognised principles of textual criticism should be applied to establish the best Latin text of the Holy Scriptures. Private individuals have done something to prepare the way for such a revision and



Entrance to the International College of St. Anselm, Rome.

they have received thanks and other marks of approval from the authorities; but no official action had been taken in the matter until His Holiness, Pope Pius X, announced his intention of preparing for the revision.

The present stage in the work of revision was offered to the Benedictines, and it was accepted by the representatives of the various Congregations of the Order in the spring of 1907. Although fully recognising that the work must necessarily be arduous, lengthy and costly, it was felt to be impossible to refuse so honourable a task. Abbot Gasquet,

President of the English Benedictines, being appointed head of the Commission of revision, a small body of Benedictines met in the month of November at the International College of St. Anselm, Rome, to take the first steps to organise the task generally, to consider the scope of the work committed to them by the Holy See and to determine the principles which were to guide them in carrying it out.

The object of the Commission is definite and limited, and it is clearly set forth in the charge given to the members by the Pope. It is to determine the text of St. Jerome's Latin translation, made in the fourth century. The task undertaken by this learned doctor of the Church in the last quarter of that century, was the production of an accurate text of the Latin Bible to take the place of the numerous versions then current. At the present day scholars are practically agreed as to the competence of St. Jerome for the work given him by Pope St. Damasus. He, moreover, had access to Greek and other manuscripts, even then considered ancient, which are no longer known to us; he could compare dozens of texts for every one we can now examine and he had means of testing the value of his authorities, which we do not now possess. It is obvious, therefore, that the possession of the pure text of St. Jerome's version is greatly to be desired, and it would unquestionably furnish the basis of any critical edition of the present authentic Latin Bible. No doubt our present text substantially represents that which St. Jerome produced in the fourth century, but no less certainly is it clear that it stands in need of close examination and much correction. It is consequently the aim of the present Commission to determine with all possible exactness the Latin text of St. Jerome, and not to produce any new version. How far St. Jerome was correct in his translation is altogether another matter, and to determine this will no doubt be the work of some future Commission.

His Holiness, the Pope, from the first has taken a personal interest in the matter. He made it clear to the Commission that he desired the work of revision to be conducted upon the most approved scientific methods of modern times, and that no expense necessary to secure thoroughness was to be spared. On December 3, 1907, he addressed a letter to the Commission through its President, making clear his own personal interest in the work and his desire that an exhaustive examination of the libraries of Europe should be made, in the hopes

*Alti diletti figli, che colle loro offerte e con
loro sudori lavorate all'opera santa
della revisione della Volgata, col voto
che il Signore largamente vi restituisca
in segno di gratitudine e di speciale
benedizione, impartiamo l'apostro-
fica Benedizione*

dal Vaticano li 8 Aprile 1908.

Ben. P. X

Blessing of His Holiness to all who assist the work.

of finding important but perhaps hitherto unrecognised manuscripts of the Latin Bible. He urged all to assist the Commission in its work, which he declared to be, in his opinion, at the present time most useful and important for the good of religion.

In its first session the Commission determined to make the College of St. Anselm the centre of the work and to gather together there the collations of all the manuscripts made by or for the members. For the purpose of the collation it was determined to print a copy of the present Clementine text of the Latin Scriptures; each page, to the extent of two thirds of its surface, being left blank; with no capital letters, no stops, no word divided and in every way made as much

like a manuscript as possible. With this text, so prepared, the reviser, on comparing it with a manuscript he desires to collate, by the simple device of correcting the print like an ordinary proof sheet, is able to reproduce every important feature of the manuscript.



General view of the International College of St. Anselm, Rome.

The three versions of the Psalms, made by St. Jerome at various times, have necessitated a special treatment of the printed sheets. The two first, the *Romana* and the *Gallicana*, which were made by St. Jerome from the old *Itala* version, corrected by the Greek version of the Septuagint, have been printed on the same sheet. The part common to the two versions is in the middle and the differences on either side. This shows at a glance where the versions differ and the sheet serves for the collation of either. The third version, made by St. Jerome

at a later period, was translated directly from the Hebrew. For this a special printed sheet has been necessary.

tabernaculis <u>(habitare)</u>	
fecerim filios israel cum	h l (<u>israhel semper</u>)
educerem eos de terra	
aegypti ego dominus	
deus uester ⁴¹ locutusque	
est moyses super	
sollemnitatibus domini	
ad filios israel	h l
[<u>XXIV</u>] ¹ et locutus	(<u>est add 2^a manu</u>)
est dominus ad moysen	o/ ⁵
dicens ² <u>praecepit</u> filiis	o/
israel ut ³ afferant tibi	issim l
oleum de oliuis	
purissimum ac lucidum	
ad concinnandas	
lucernas iugiter ³ extra	
uelum testimonii in	
tabernaculo foederis	
ponetque eas aaron a	in /
uespere usque ^{ad} mane	
coram domino cultu	
rituque perpetuo in	
generationibus uestris	
⁴ super candelabrum	o/
mundissimum ponentur	o/ (<u>in add. 2^a manu.</u>)
semper in conspectu	
domini ⁵ accipies quoque	
similam ⁶ et <u>foques</u> ⁷ ex	qu / <u>[fol. 14v. Col. a.]</u>
ea duodecim panes qui	
singuli habebunt duas	
decimas ⁶ quorum	
senos altrinsecus super	
mensam purissimam	
coram domino staturis	
⁷ et pones super eos	o/
lucidissimum ut sit	
panis in monumentum	
oblationis domini	
⁸ <u>per singula sabbata</u>	
<u>mutabuntur coram</u>	in margine inferiore
domino suscepti a	add. 2 ^a manu
filii israel foedere	h l
sempiterno ⁹ eruntque	

Page of printed Bible, showing corrections.

The printing of this Bible, which is to form the basis of the collations, has taken almost twelve months; and the preparation of the text and the correction of the proof sheets

alone has been no light task. The production has also been necessarily a very costly matter. One hundred copies have

PSALMORUM LXXVIII, 12, - LXXIX, 5.

16)

	secundum	
	magnitudinem	brachii
	tui	posside filios
mortificatorum		morte punitorum
¹² et		
	redde vicinis	nostris
	septuplum	in sinu
	eorum	improperium
	ipsorum	quod
	exprobrauerunt	tibi
	domine ¹³ nos autem	
	populus tuus	et oves
pascuae tuae		gregis tui
	confitebimur	tibi
in saeculum		deus in saecula
in generationem		et in saeculum
et generationem		saeculi narrabimus
annuntiabimus		

laudem tuam
PS. LXXIX

	¹ IN FINEM PRO HIS	
	QUI COMMUTABUNTUR	
	TESTIMONIUM	ASAPH
PSALMUS ¹		PSALMUS
		ASSYRIORUM
	² qui regis israel	
	intende qui deducis	
	velut ovem ioseph	
	qui sedes super	
	cherubim	
manifestare		apparare
³		coram
ephrain		ephem
	beniamin et manasse	
	excita potentiam tuam	
	et ueni ut	
	saluos facias nos	
⁴ deus		domine deus
		uirtutum
	conuerte nos et	
	ostende faciem tuam	
	et salui erimus	
	⁵ domine deus uirtutum	

PSALMORUM

17

Page of printed Bible - Psalms.

been printed upon the best hand made paper; 200 upon ordinary book paper and 60 upon thin paper, and the Commission would have hesitated to incur the expense had



Store of printed Bibles — Old Testament.

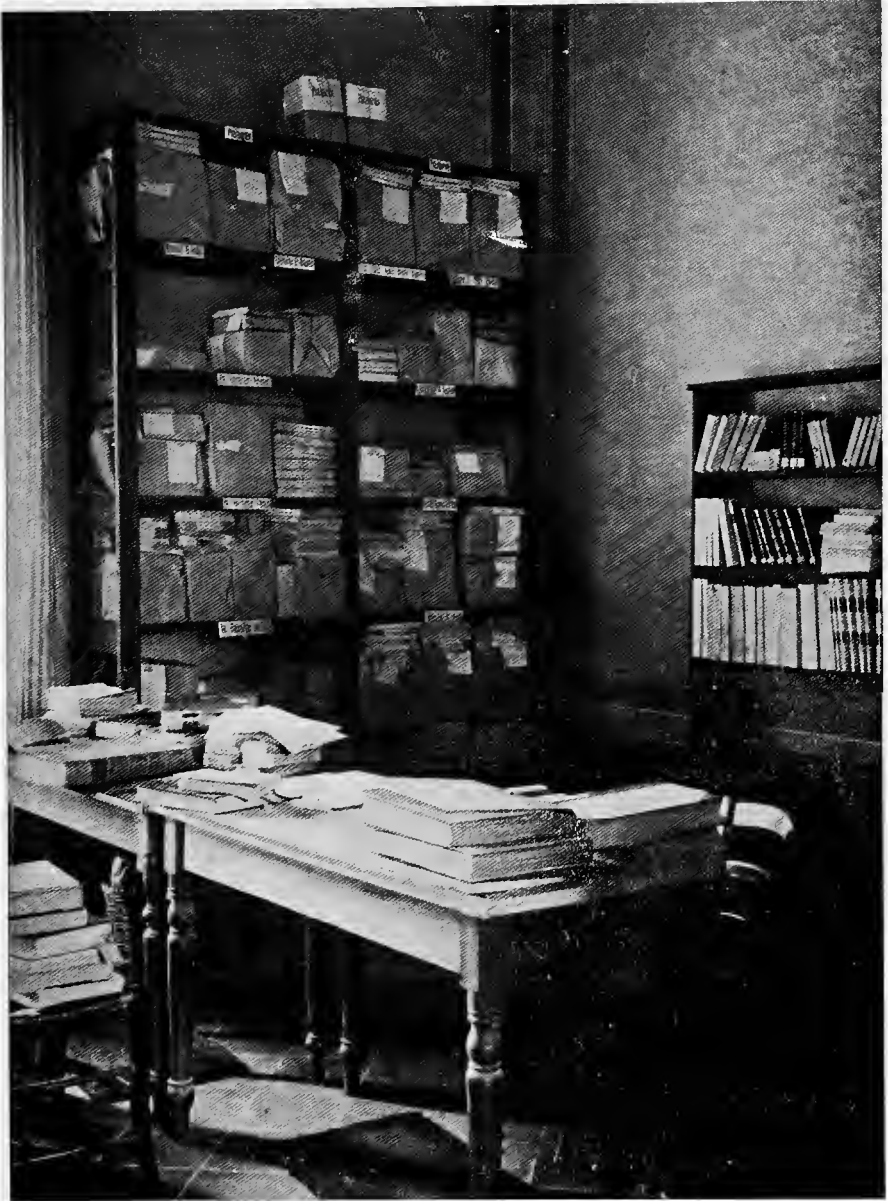
not the Pope decided that this was the best system to secure thoroughness. He himself too has now advanced the money to pay for the printing.

Besides the production of the Bible, during the past year



Volumes of finished collations.

considerable progress has been made with the preparation of a **Hand-List** of Latin Biblical Mss. in the libraries of Europe. This should be found to be of considerable utility to others besides those engaged in this work. A certain number of libraries in various countries have already been visited and their contents, so far as Latin Biblical texts are concerned, have been noted and in some instances copied or collated.



Store of printed Bibles — New Testament.

it was subjected in the process of making. It is now understood that the *Capitulas*, or as we might call them "tables of contents," which are to be found in most ancient Bibles before each Book of Sacred Scripture, are of great value in determining this place of origin. Considerable progress has



Board Room.

already been made in collecting the various versions of these *Capitulas*, which differ considerably according to the influences which presided at their original composition. For the purpose of making this collection a *table* has been drawn up giving the best known *incipits* of each book, and already this *table* has been compared with a vast number of *Capitulas* found in the Bibles of many libraries of Europe.

To carry on the work properly a large sum of money will obviously be required. Although the workers give their services gratuitously, they have to be supported whilst they labour; journeys have to be paid for; necessary books have to be bought; printing bills have to be met; photographs have to be secured and for many other things money has to be found. It has been roughly estimated that about a thousand pounds a year will be required for the work now actually being carried out. This part of the revision will possibly take from eight to ten years, and thus probably an entire sum of from 8000 to 10000 pounds sterling will be necessary. This amount though considerable, will not appear excessive when it is remembered that the German scholar von Soden got from one Lutheran lady 400,000 marks to assist him in a somewhat similar work in regard to the Greek text of the New Testament. To deal with the financial side of the work, to account for all receipts and expenditure to the Holy Father, the Commission has the services of the Very Rev. W. Corney O. S. B. Procurator General of the English Congregation.

Already many have kindly and generously assisted the work of the Commission by their donations. From America, in particular and even from non-Catholics, a great portion of the money to meet the initial expenses has been received; if we except the gift of the Holy Father, who in spite of the many calls upon him, has proved the interest he takes in the work, by his generosity. It has been suggested that more would gladly take some part in the work, if some practical suggestion were made. The Bishops of Belgium have set an excellent example of how to assist by each making himself responsible for 200 francs yearly, which in this case is collected by His Eminence Cardinal Mercier. From America also some, like the Professors of St. Bernard's Seminary at Rochester, have sent annual subscriptions. If the Right Reverend the Bishops in various countries would give or collect some small

sum annually, and if more seminaries would emulate the example of Rochester, the work would go on without the financial strain, which at present presses upon the Commission.

Contributions, however small whether annual or not, may be sent either to:

The Right Rev. Abbot GASQUET
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	<hr/>
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	<hr/> <hr/>

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ST. ANSELM'S, ROME.

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