

responsibility about the text as the Palestine Jews did, were not at all above striking out passages which presented difficulties to their minds. It may be so. Certainly if it were in the Pentateuch it was asserted that this serious interpolation had occurred we should be very slow to believe it except on the most indisputable evidence. But in the early ages the manuscript of the Book of Samuel, which was used more for private circulation, and never regarded with the same high degree of reverence as were the Books of Moses, might quite possibly have had this disputed part inserted between its leaves by some private owner, and thus become the source of an error such as this.

At any rate, in the present state of the evidence the revisers would not be justified in altering the text.

VIII.

2 SAM. xxi. 19: And Elhanan, the son of Jaare-Oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

Poor Goliath the Gittite! Surely we all thought that, if we knew anything of Hebrew history, we knew even from nursery days that he had been pretty well killed already by David himself, when he drew the giant's sword "and slew him, and cut off his head therewith."

Of course, we at once suspect some corruption. But how are we to hunt it down? Fortunately there is a