

very difficult one, and important issues concerning what is called the higher criticism are affected by it.

VII.

"AUTHORISED" READING.

1 KINGS xxii. 38: And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and they washed his armour.

REVISERS' READING.

And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood: now the harlots washed themselves there.

The Hebrew word whose meaning is in question is ZONOTH. Now, in Hebrew, of course, as in English, it may happen that entirely different meanings may grow on to the same word.<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew word ZONOTH has not only the signification *armour*, but also, and much more frequently, the very different meaning, *harlots*.

Which does it mean in the passage before us? It is possible, to be sure, that the writer meant to inform us of the washing of Ahab's blood-stained armour. But considering the commoner signification of the word, does it not seem more probable that he meant to give an additional touch of ignominy to Ahab's wretched fate, by telling us that it was the pool where the harlots washed themselves in which the blood of the dead king was washed from the chariot?

We turn to the Ancient Versions to aid us in the inquiry, and find that the Syriac Bible eighteen cen-

<sup>1</sup> Take, for example, the English word *post*.