

that a mistake has arisen owing to confusion of two similar letters.

However, to make assurance doubly sure the Ancient Versions were consulted. The Septuagint reads, "They pierced;" the Syriac and the Vulgate read the same; and the other versions all practically confirm it, though some of them read a slightly different word.

This being one of the prominent Messianic texts, the charge of wilfully corrupting it was brought against the Jews, and largely believed, too, in those days, when anything evil was but too readily believed of them. But the charge is utterly unfounded. Though they kept this form of the word in the text, they always read it "they pierced," and it would seem that their reason for not correcting it even in the margin was because they held that the form K<sub>2</sub>ARI was grammatically consistent with the correct reading. The word occurs only once more in the Bible, Isa. xxxviii. 13, "*Like a lion, so will He break all my bones,*" and there is an interesting note in the Massorah stating that it occurs only in these two places, and that it has a different signification in each, thus clearly showing that in this verse of the Psalms they did not read it "like a lion." The fact, too, that all the versions read it as a verb, even those of Aquila and Symmachus, who were so deeply imbued with the teaching of the Palestine Jews, points to the same conclusion.