

be a proper name; see i. 35, ii. 9. What is the true meaning? Did Hideon return "before the rising of the sun," or "from the height of Heres?" The Vulgate says the former, and most Jewish commentators agree with it. The Septuagint says "from the ascent of Ares." Where doctors differ who shall decide?

## VI.

*"AUTHORISED" READING.*

2 SAM. viii. 18: David's sons  
were chief rulers.

*REVISERS' READING.*

David's sons were priests.

This is a very startling translation, if it be correct. If David's sons were priests, there must have been a serious neglect of the law which restricted the priesthood to the family of Levi. The Hebrew word used is the same that in v. 17 is applied to Zadok and Ahimelech the priests. It is also used of Ira the Jairite in ch. xx. 26, and later, in the list of Solomon's officers, of Zabud the son of Nathan, who was "a KOHEN, and the king's friend." But surely it is possible that it may mean a chief minister either of Church or State. The Vulgate renders the word "priests," and is followed by Luther and by Coverdale's Bible; but the Septuagint has "courtiers," and both the Syriac Bible and the Targums have "princes." So, as far as the guidance of the Old Versions will take us in fixing the translation, we cannot go along with the recent revisers. The question, however, is a