

This is one of those extremely rare cases where we seem compelled to go against all the Old Documents. The blunder is more than two thousand years old. It was even in the ancient Hebrew manuscripts from which the Septuagint translators worked two thousand years ago, and they, of course, transferred it to their version, where it exists to this day. The Syriac is the only important version which corrects it.

XIII.

Ps. xxii. 16: *They pierced my hands and my feet.*

Here is a very remarkable case where the Hebrew text has been entirely deserted in our English Bibles for the preferable reading of the versions.

We saw in Bk. i. p. 16 how mistakes might arise from the confusion of the two similar letters ך and ם (*y* and *u*). Here is a case in point. The Hebrew in this famous passage makes no sense as it stands. The word translated "*they pierced*" is not even a verb at all. It is a noun, אַרִי (אֲרִי), "a lion," with a preposition כ' (כִּ) prefixed, so that it reads כְּאַרִי (כְּאַרִי), "like a lion."

"Like a lion my hands and my feet" is clearly sheer nonsense. But if the little ך at the end be lengthened to ם, it becomes the Hebrew verb כָּאֲרוּ (כָּאֲרוּ), "they pierced." Therefore, of course, there can be no doubt that this is the right reading, and