

CHAPTER II.

SPECIMENS OF CRITICAL WORK.

I.

"AUTHORISED" READING.

GEN. iv. 8: And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

REVISERS' READING.

And Cain told Abel his brother: and it came to pass, &c.

MARGINAL READING.

Hebrew means, Cain said unto Abel his brother; and many ancient authorities have, "said unto Abel his brother, Let us go into the field."

The Hebrew verb here means regularly said to, and when we meet it we always expect to find after it the words that were said. But there are no such words following it in the Hebrew text. Therefore, the translators of our Authorised Version saved the sense at the cost of the grammar, and incorrectly translated it talked with." The revisers have made a partial compromise—"Cain told Abel." The words literally translated would be:—

AND CAIN
SAID TO ABEL HIS BROTHER:
AND IT CAME TO PASS WHEN
THEY WERE IN THE FIELD THAT
CAIN ROSE UP, &c.