

are not exact reproductions, but in some cases are free, and in others reflect a text already corrupt.

An interesting problem arises in ix. 9, where H., G., S., and Talmud disagree. S. translates the verse twice, x. 8 and v. 10, and agrees with Talmud; v. 7 (a) in S. is a variant of Talmud (a); v. 8b has no relation to Talmud; G., *συμβολοκοπειω* = זלל; cp. Pr. xxxiii. 20, where זלל parallel to יין סבא. G. and H. suggest the following, עַם בַּעֲלָהּ אֶל הַטֶּעַם יֵאֵל תִּסְבֵּא עִמָּה שֶׁבֶר, Talmud has a free translation of סבא; and so G. and S.

H. has sometimes additions that have corrupted the text, e.g. in xi. 10 cd, a verse that contradicts the preceding one. xi. 29 ii. is from Jer. v. 27. xi. 6 is a repetition of xi. 5 (where עַל לֵב = עֲיִב, N. H., humble, oppress).

In conclusion, we may say that while H. contains some of the remains of an original text, it has become so corrupt that for purposes of criticism it has little value in addition to that of the versions. In most instances where the versions have become corrupt or reflect a corrupt original, H. gives us no help. The many lacunae in H. have been filled by translations from the versions. Emendations have been made on the basis of the versions. The marginal notes are often the readings of equally corrupt texts; e.g. cp. the relations of B. and C. The text represents an attempted restoration of the original on the basis of some faulty remains and the versions.

The text became corrupt because of the neglect which it suffered during the earlier years of its existence. It was not included in the Canon, and (Levi ii. p. xl.) it was prohibited by the doctors of the Talmud. Subsequently it grew into general favor. The Latin Vulgate calls it *Ecclesiasticus*—the book par excellence for church reading. The fact that our fragments were found in the Genizah of Cairo,—a sacred depository of half-worn texts, shows the esteem in which the book was held in later days. We are not surprised, therefore, that great efforts were made to amend the neglect of the past and to restore the original by all means possible.