

noted his corrections. I had still all my corrections to make, to compare these with Mr. Geddies, and incorporate the two; to write out a fair copy of all these corrections, and also copy out the half of Mark, 1st and 2d Corinthians, Hebrews, and Revelation. As one of the first qualifications of a translator is, to know the meaning of the original, I was desirous to avail myself of the best helps, in the way of commentaries, at my command. I consequently read Bloomfield and Alford's commentaries, the last two volumes of Alford being published since my return. I also read Ellicott on the Epistles, and Stanley on Corinthians, which I had not previously seen. These I read through; others, as well as versions, I consulted on more difficult passages. In August last I had all finished, except the correcting of Romans and the catholic Epistles, and I felt certain that the press would not overtake me. I wrote to the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to their editorial superintendent, the Rev. T. W. Meller, M.A., rector of Woodbridge, Suffolk. The answer of both these gentlemen were highly satisfactory. They both considered it unnecessary for me to go to London, and that the whole business might be managed by writing. Mr. Meller informed me on the 17th August, that the Editorial Committee would not meet until the 17th of October, and that it might facilitate operations for me to forward to him a portion of my prepared manuscript, that he might examine it, and report upon it to the committee. I did so. When the Committee met, they at once agreed to print 4000 copies, small pica type, small octavo size. Mr. Meller examined a few chapters in Matthew, and made his remarks as he went along. These he returned to me, with a request that I would examine his suggestions, and if I thought that there would be any advantage in his continuing to examine the whole in the same manner, as aiding towards correctness and accuracy in the edition, he would do so. He at the same time stated that it would cause delay, as he had other versions to superintend, and there would be time lost in correspondence. I at once accepted of his offer, and I have never once had cause to regret my doing so. After Mr. Geddies and I, with the aid of the natives, had done our best, Mr. Meller came to our aid, with an entirely new class of qualifications. He brings to the task Biblical scholarship of the highest order, years of experience in superintending other versions, and a perfect acquaintance with all the difficult passages, and all the classes of difficulties, over which raw translators like ourselves are wont to stumble. He comes with a "fresh eye," that detects every oversight; he is, moreover a firm believer in the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures; were there no other evidence to show it, his suggestions and criticisms prove that he is most intensely desirous that the very mind of God's Holy Spirit should be as fully and clearly set forth in every verse of the translation, as it is in the original.

But here some may be disposed to put the question, which has been often put to me. What does he know about the Aneiteum language? And if he does, how or where has he learned it? He knows enough of the language for his purpose. He knows generally the meaning of every word, and he can read it so far as to make out the meaning we intend to convey in every sentence. How he has acquired it I do not know, but that is of little consequence. Some years ago a gentleman in London made a vocabulary of the language, formed from our translations; probably he has that. But men familiar with the study of languages soon acquire a new language. Some months ago, Mr. Meller forwarded to me a long letter, written in the Aneiteum language, which he had received from a learned polyglot German, residing in the kingdom of Hanover. The letter was very correctly composed. The writer had acquired a knowledge of the language from our translation of the gospel of Luke. Mr. Meller has gone through the translation, with the most persevering, painstaking diligence, as far as the middle of 1st Corinthians. He wrote me nearly 150 pages of small note paper on Matthew. As soon as I saw the nature of his suggestions, I commenced and went over book after book anew before him, and anticipated a considerable amount of his criticism. Still, in his own department, there was abundance left for him to do. So it observed, he corrects none; his remarks are all in the way of calling attention to errors, mistakes, oversights, and doubtful passages. The final correction, in every case, is left to me. He has written me about 600 pages, and before the work is done, he will probably send me at least 1000.