

reigned — years." For example, 2 Sam. ii. 10: "*Ishbosheth was forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years.*" 2 Sam. v. 4: "*David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years;*" and so frequently in the Books of Kings. Now, this is the formula used above, and it cannot be rightly rendered, as in our Bibles, "*Saul reigned one year;*" it should read, according to the Hebrew, "*Saul was one year old,*" which is clearly a mistake. Probably the scribe, in writing the formula, left the numerals blank, to be afterwards filled in, and thus the mistake arose. The Septuagint does not help us much. Some of its later editions have the word *thirty*, as above, but the best MSS. leave out the verse.

It is very likely that in the ancient and less scrupulous days some scribe thought this a convenient place for inserting in his manuscript the usual information about the king's age and reign. All we can say now is, that this verse is corrupt, and we cannot tell what the true reading should be.

VI.

"AUTHORISED" READING.

1 SAM. xiv. 18: And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ARK of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

REVISERS' MARGIN.

The Septuagint has—
Bring hither the EPHOD; for he wore the ephod at that time before Israel.

The Septuagint here is very probably right, though the revisers have left the text uncorrected. Let the