

Text of Job" (Essay VI.), and "The Text of Ecclesiasticus" (Essay VII.)

In the Essay on Job there are numerous marks of haste which are to be regretted. For instance, in Job xvii. 2 (p. 221), *λίσσομαι κάμνων, καὶ τί ποιήσας* [*sic*] is translated, "I am weary with entreating, and what hast thou done?" Surely the augment is not dropped in the LXX. as in Homer so that *ποιήσας* should stand for *ἐποίησας*. If we read *ποιήσας* with the usual accent, it will then naturally agree with the *ἐγώ* understood: "And what have I done (to deserve this)?" literally, "and for doing what?"—Again, a few lines lower down Dr. Hatch gives up as hopelessly corrupt the first clause of v. 5. The whole verse runs thus: *τῇ μερίδι ἀναγγελεῖ κακίας, ὀφθαλμοὶ δὲ ἐφ' υἱοῖς ἐτάκησαν*, which Dr. Hatch renders "Even the eyes of his children *failed*." [The *?* and the italics are his.] Doubtless the Greek is strangely crabbed and uncouth, and yet it is not untranslatable. The last word of v. 4 is *αὐτούς*, and obviously it is *their* children that are alluded to, not the children of the subject of *ἀναγγελεῖ*. The ordinary Greek student will not know, but Dr. Hatch is perfectly aware, that in Hebrew one way of conveying the notion of the indefinite pronoun—as in "*on* dit," "*man* sagt," "*uno* no puede juzgar," "*one* must admit"—is to put the verb in the third person singular without any subject expressed. One instance will suffice. In Gen. xlviii. 1 "he said to Joseph" is properly rendered in both A.V. and R.V. "*one* said to Joseph." Luther gives "*ward* Joseph gesagt," and Segond "*l'on* vint dire à Joseph." Now if we suppose, consistently with the leading idea of Dr. Hatch's volume, that this idiom is here, as it is elsewhere (Job xxviii. 3, for example) transferred from the Hebrew to the Greek, the verse can be translated at once, and in perfect harmony with the context. V. 4 finishes, "therefore shalt Thou not exalt them," and v. 5 proceeds, "*One* shall tell of malicious acts done to their portion, and their eyes have wasted [= shall waste] away (in tears) over their (slain) children."

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