

in the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all lands' therefore.

"Resolved, That it is not the province and duty of the American and Foreign Bible Society to attempt on their own part, or to procure from others, a revision of the commonly received English version of the Sacred Scriptures."

Four distinct lines of policy are here marked :

1st. The Society binds itself to the perpetual and exclusive use of the common version without condition or hope of change.

2nd. It prohibits itself from ever revising or correcting it, declaring this not to be "its province and duty."

3rd. It forbids any encouragement to others to do the work for the Society, asserting that it is not its province and duty to procure a revision from others.

4th. It imposes a construction upon the Constitution involving a principle that extends beyond the English. For if, because the Constitution defines the object of the Society to be "to aid in the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all lands," THEREFORE, it is not "its province and duty" to revise, or procure the revision of, one version, it cannot be its province and duty to revise, or procure the revision of, any other version.

The Society having thus decisively assumed an entirely new line of policy regarding the principle of pure versions, proceeded to enforce that policy by removing from office those officers and managers (with the exception of the President who resigned) who were known to be in favor of removing the errors and obscurities from the common English version.

As a consequence of the vital change in the character of an institution once so justly esteemed, it became necessary to organize a body to take the place which the American and Foreign Bible Society had abandoned. On the 10th of June, 1850,

#### THE AMERICAN BIBLE UNION

Was constituted to be the representative, exponent, and advocate of pure versions of the Sacred Scriptures for the world. The following articles from its Constitution will show that there is no danger of ever undergoing the sad change which has destroyed the vitality of the A. & F. B. S. as the advocate of a principle:

'ART. II Its object shall be to procure and circulate the most faithful versions of the Sacred Scriptures in all languages throughout the world.'

'ART. XX. This Constitution may be altered by two-thirds of the members present at any annual meeting of the Union; provided only that no alteration shall be made in the Second Article, which defines the object of the Union, without a unanimous vote, and one year's previous notice.'

The American Bible Union is designed to sustain and encourage pure versions of God's word throughout the world. It designs to spare no expense and no exertion, which may be needed to procure a correct English Bible.

That plan has been sought which will be most likely to combine