

## CHAPTER III.

### A FURTHER USE OF THE ANCIENT BIBLES.

I WANT here to illustrate very briefly a further use of the "Other Old Documents" in producing a correct Bible. Where a word occurs only once or twice in the Hebrew Bible, or where, from any other cause, its meaning is doubtful, these Old Versions are very useful in settling its correct translation. But we cannot always entirely depend on them. One of them will sometimes contradict another. But it is evident that it must be a considerable help in deciding the meaning if we know how men two thousand years ago understood the word. Here are a few specimens and illustrations:—

#### I.

##### "AUTHORISED" READING.

GEN. xii. 6: Abram passed through the land . . . unto the plain of Moreh.

##### REVISERS' READING.

Unto the oak of Moreh.

The meaning of the Hebrew word is doubtful. St. Jerome had to translate it in making his Vulgate 1500 years ago, and he rendered it *the plain*, and so do also the chief Jewish authorities. But the old Septuagint, 600 years earlier, always translates the