

IX.

"AUTHORISED" READING.

REVISERS' READING.

2 SAM. xv. 28: I will tarry in
the plain of the wilderness.

I will tarry at the fords of the
wilderness.

The reader will remember what has been said (p. 97) about the Massoretic marginal notes, the Keri and Kethibh. This is an illustration. The text has "Habaroeth" (fords), the Keri (note in the margin) says, "read Haraboth" (plains). It also interestingly exhibits a very common form of transcriber's mistake. The writer, raising his eyes to the copy before him, repeats to himself the word "Haraboth," and then, before he has half-written it, it gets confused in his mind with Habaroeth, which is so very like it in sound and appearance.

It is very hard to say which is right. The Kethibh, "fords," looks the most suitable to the context (see chap. xvii. 16); yet all the ancient versions support the Keri.

X.

"AUTHORISED" READING.

REVISERS' READING.

2 SAM. xviii. 13: Wrought falsehood
against mine own life.

Dealt falsely against his life.

Here is another of the Keri notes. The text has Naphsho (his life), but the Massoretic note in the margin says, "Read Naphshi" (my life). As already pointed out, we cannot place much dependence on