

In regard to massive English classical writers, when the sentences are displayed as above all hermeneutical difficulty practically ceases. But the case is different with respect to the Pauline Epistles, which are not complete and systematic treatises (not even the Epistles to the Romans or the Hebrews), but writings in which the ideas are unusually compressed—due in a great measure to circumstances of the moment—and growing out of each other without any fixed or arbitrary laws. Consequently side-notes, apart altogether from the text of the Epistle, are given in order to signify the functions which each clause or phrase fulfils as discovered by the natural force of its connecting words. In some instances the reader might feel these remarks are unneeded, and might have been well omitted; but it is impossible to say what help of this kind could be omitted on account of the different training and aptitude of readers, and also on account of the varying mood of even the same reader. Besides, there is an evident advantage in such helps being furnished by one mind upon a definite principle and with special regard to the harmonious presentation of the connecting logical links.

It was also felt that a few headings giving brief summaries of each paragraph would be regarded as welcome stepping-stones, even if they served no higher function. These few insertions across the page in different type will not be found to interfere with the aim steadily kept in mind throughout, viz., that, while typographical arrangements should be unmistakable and pleasing to the eye, yet the Scripture text itself, however distributed for educational purposes, should be preserved and presented in unbroken entirety.

The uses of such a display will be found to be various. This method will tend to make the public reading of the Bible more intelligent and effective, since grammatical analysis is a prime necessity of good reading. It will afford guidance to the expositor, and also furnish topics upon single texts. It will enable the ordinary reader to grasp the meaning of an Epistle as a whole quickly and effectively, certainly more so than reading it with the sacred text printed in the usual manner.