

British and Foreign.

THE PARAGRAPH ENGLISH NEW TESTAMENT.

After careful consideration, the British and Foreign Bible Society has printed a "Paragraph New Testament, as an experiment, under the care of the Society's Editorial Superintendent."

It may be noted that the utmost caution has been taken to maintain inviolable the original constitution of the Society, so that in the Testament just issued, "The Authorized Version has been strictly adhered to; not a word nor a letter has been wittingly altered." We have much satisfaction in stating that the Testament is sold at the usual low catalogue prices. We have received only a few specimen copies, but intend ordering a number soon. We have great pleasure in furnishing the accompanying statement, which appears in the *Monthly Reporter* of the Parent Society.

"Two years ago a deputation from the Birmingham Auxiliary waited on the Committee of the Parent Society, and urged upon them the importance of printing the Scriptures in paragraphs, especially for the use of schools. The subject was not new to the Committee; but though some steps had been previously taken towards the preparation of such a work, difficulties had arisen, and the matter had been allowed to drop. The formal request of the Birmingham Auxiliary, backed up as it was by the arguments of the gentlemen who composed the deputation, caused the subject to be re-opened, and, finally, it was resolved that a Paragraph Testament should be printed, as an experiment, under the care of the Society's Editorial Superintendent.

"The work is now published, at prices which are given below; and the principles on which it has been prepared may be briefly stated for the information of subscribers:—

"(1.) The Authorized Version has been strictly adhered to: not a word nor a letter has been wittingly altered.

"(2.) Where standard editions differed in their *punctuation*, the Editor felt himself at liberty to follow that which seemed more correct. An instance of such variation will be found on comparing the London and Cambridge editions of the Brevier Testament in Heb. xiii. 7. The Cambridge edition is here correct, but the London edition, by putting a colon instead of a full-stop after the word "conversation," suggests an immediate connection between the 7th and 8th verses, which the original does not justify. Old editions, such as those of 1611 and 1612, varied very much; but there is now a generally received system of punctuation, from which the editor of the present work did not allow himself to depart.

"(3.) The printed matter at the foot of the page consists of the alternative renderings, and explanations of Greek words, which exist in all marginal reference editions of the Authorized Version. The only change is, that instead of their being mixed up with the references, where they often escape the eye, they are printed at the bottom of the page, so that they cannot fail to attract attention. Many of them are very valuable.

"(4.) The New Testament contains about three hundred quotations from the Old. These quotations form a most interesting connecting link between the various parts of the Bible, and throw much light on the way in which our Lord and His Apostles interpreted the Hebrew Scriptures. In the present edition the reader will find at the end of each quotation a reference (in brackets) to the passage in the Old Testament from which it is taken.