

less than a book of the New Testament, and generally each comprises several.

It will naturally be asked why, since we have so many manuscript revisions on hand, we have yet printed so few. To such an inquiry we will endeavour to reply.

When a scholar is engaged by the Board, instructions are introduced into the contract requiring the exact meaning of the original and he is requested and urged to make the most thorough and faithful revision possible. No expense is spared to furnish him with books and other requisite facilities. When his work is finished, the manuscript is submitted to the Board and referred to the Committee on Versions. This Committee is required to give it a careful examination, and not to recommend its printing, unless its merits will justify such an expenditure. If this is not the case, another scholar or other scholars are employed upon the same part. Sometimes the work has to go through the hands of a third or a fourth party before the Committee feel justified in printing it. On some parts we have manuscripts from five different hands. All of these are of more or less service in the prosecution of the work, and will eventually greatly aid the ultimate committee that must prepare the whole book for the press.

It is to be understood that the portions which the Committee recommended to be printed, do not necessarily have their unqualified approbation. There may be many things in them which they may wish to see altered. Their view is, that the changes in these portions embrace all, or nearly all, the important questions which will require the scrutiny of the ultimate College of Revisers; and that with the authorities referred to by the respective revisers and the manuscript revisions of the same portions in possession of the Board this Committee will have all the facilities requisite to enable them to form an intelligent judgment of the value and necessity of the changes. All the books used by the revisers, and many others will be in the library of the Union, so that they can be examined whenever needed.

With this view, those who purchase our incipient publications, must not be surprised to find in them many alterations in the common version, which *probably will not be retained in the ultimate revision*. They have sometimes been made by the judgment of an individual mind, and perhaps that mind would not have ventured upon them, had it not been with the knowledge that their publication