

ACCURACY.

Now the first requisite in all serious study is accuracy in details. Hazy views based upon general statements will not suffice. There must be views clearly defined taking shape from a thorough grasp of all the details. And this I take to be the essential feature of scholarship.

Now, in its highest forms, Biblical scholarship implies a thorough knowledge of the original languages in which the Bible was written. The Greek alone will, rigidly speaking, suffice. For the New Testament, which to us is the most important, was written in Greek and the Septuagint or Greek version of the Old Testament has something of the authority of the original Hebrew from the use that is made of it in the New Testament. This may seem to be out of place on the present occasion. It will have served its purpose, however, if it impress the fact upon us that we have the best possible substitute for the original in our Revised Version of the Scriptures. I am not here comparing the Old Bible with the New. To me it is little short of a Divine Providence that essential truth should have suffered so little in the keeping of the Authorized Version. I am only speaking from the standpoint of accuracy, and from that point of view I presume there is no doubt that the aid of the Revised Version is invaluable. It represents, as far as possible, the same word in the original by the same word in the English where the Authorized Version freely uses synonyms. And for synonyms in the original it uses different words in the English where the Authorized Version uses the same word. The gain is incalculable, especially where an argument hinges upon an important word and derives its main force from the repetition of that word. For example, the word *katallage* in Rom. V : 11, is rendered "atone-ment" while in 2 Cor. V : 18, 19 it is rendered "reconciliation" in the Authorized Version. In the Revised it is "reconciliation" in both places. In Rom. IV *logizomai* occurs eleven times, and it is not too much to say that St. Paul's whole argument turns on the use of that word. The Authorized Version renders it "count" twice, "impute" six times and "reckon" three times. The Revised Version has "reckon" throughout. While I was Principal of the Sabrevois schools and had but little time for the preparation of sermons I used habitually to study my sermons with a concordance and a reference Bible, seeking out all the passages where the same word or expression occurs. It is simply astonishing how varied and comprehensive any truth becomes when studied in that way. The value of the Revised Version is striking in this connexion, where you can rely on finding the same word in the