

The Christian Messenger.

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"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

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WHOLE SERIES
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Poetry.

Speak not harshly.

Speak not harshly—much of care
Every human heart must bear;
Enough of shadows sadly play
Around the very sunniest way—
Enough of sorrows darkly lie
Veiled within the merriest eye.
By thy childhood's quivering tears—
By the grief of after years—
By the anguish thou dost know—
Add not to another's woe.

Speak not harshly—much of sin
Dwelleth every heart within;
In its closely-covered cells
Many a wayward passion dwells.
By the many hours mispent—
By the thoughts too folly lent—
By the wrong thou didst not shun—
By the good thou hast not done—
With a lenient spirit span
The weakness of thy brother man.

Bible Revision.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dr. Maclay and the Bible Union.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The controversy between Dr. Maclay and the Bible Union is greatly to be deplored. I fear that our venerable friend has been ill advised. It would have been wiser and more christian-like to have presented a statement of the alleged evils to the Board of the Union, and to have refrained from publication till the Board refused to explain, or offered such unsatisfactory explanations that the exposure became necessary. Dr. Maclay has adopted another course. A special Committee having been appointed, consisting of persons not members of the Board, whose duty it will be, as the Resolution states, "to examine into the state and condition of our affairs, and to report thereon to the Union," at its annual meeting in October. Dr. Maclay might have waited for the Report of that Committee. He has not chosen to do so, but has preferred to call for judgment on *ex parte* evidence, and to hazard the breaking up of the Union, in order that the angry feelings of the individual who is supposed to have prompted him to take this step may be gratified. Dr. Maclay's numerous friends cannot but be grieved at the position in which this act has placed the man whom they so highly esteem and revere.

Dr. Maclay's charges against the Union have been met by the Officers. They have published "a defence of the Bible Union." As the two documents are far too lengthy for insertion in your columns, I have prepared an abstract of the more important portions, both of the attack and the defence, which I now send you, for the information of your readers.

1. Dr. Maclay affirms that he had "understood from the Secretary" that there had been "about forty individuals actively engaged in translating the New Testament," whereas it now appears that there have not been more than twenty-three or twenty-four.

Reply. Dr. Maclay's memory fails him. Two years ago, when in Great Britain, he issued a Circular, in which the Secretary's statement is given in these words:—"Written contracts have been made with more than twenty scholars, and many of these, in compliance with the stipulations, have made engagements with others to work with them, so that the number of scholars actually engaged in the service of the Union does not vary far from forty." Surely this is very explicit.

2. Dr. Maclay says, that instead of all the revisers being "competent scholars," some of them "unquestionably lacked the essential qualifications of a translator."

Reply. This is a heavy charge, totally unsustained by proof. No impartial person will think it right and fair to allow Dr. Maclay's unsupported affirmation to outweigh the judgment of the whole Board, by whom the appointment of translators has been made. If Dr. Maclay is confessedly the best judge of "the essential qualifications of a translator," his statement may be admitted. All depends on that. But is that conceded?

3. Dr. Maclay gives a list of passages which he thinks are very incorrectly translated; and he goes so far as to say of these "shocking" and "unwarrantable translations," that "if published they must bring into discredit the most precious doctrines of his faith, sap the fundamental truths of Christianity, as indubitably revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and shake the confidence of the people in the canon of the sacred writings."

Reply. The translations referred to have never been published, and therefore the Union is not responsible for them. They are taken from the *unfinished work* of revisers, being copied from proof-sheets which are undergoing constant re-examination, and many of which have been since materially altered. Is it doing justice to a reviser, or to the Society which employs him to publish such private papers? Would it be dealing fairly with a mechanic or an artist to exhibit their rough draughts, and then call upon the public to denounce their unskillfulness? Would Dr. Maclay or any other literary man be willing that his manuscripts should be subjected to such treatment?

4. Dr. Maclay states that in some instances the received Greek text has been departed from by revisers, contrary to the rule laid down by the Union, restricting revisers to an edition of the Greek text published by Bagster and Sons, in 1851.

Reply. It is admitted that a reviser is of opinion that in some cases other editions give the Greek text in a more correct form, and that he has translated accordingly. But these translations of his, from the text so altered, have not been approved in any way by the Union, nor published as specimens of revision.

5. Dr. Maclay charges the board with incurring great unnecessary expense in printing Dr. Conant's translation of Job in six different forms.

I do not see any reference to this in the "Defence of the Bible Union." The Board judged it expedient to issue the Book of Job in various forms. The result will show how far it was a wise measure, should the sale be remunerative it will be an advantageous speculation. We must wait for the opinion of the special Committee. The measure has been approved by the Committee of Inquiry.

6. Dr. Maclay asserts that Dr. Conant's translation of Job has been printed without subjecting it to the examination of other revisers, contrary to the rules of the Union.

This also is not adverted to in the "Defence." But it appears that it is not regarded by the Committee of Inquiry as "contrary to the rules of the Union;" from which I infer that there was a special contract with Dr. Conant, to print his translation at once, while that, as well as all other translations issued by the Union, will have to undergo a final revision before the work is pronounced complete.

7. Dr. Maclay complains of the expense attendant on the employment of Dr. Conant, with so little result. He receives \$2,000

per annum (including \$500 for valuable assistance rendered by Mrs. Conant), and as yet only the Book of Job is published.

Reply. Literary labour like that performed by Dr. Conant is worth all that is paid for it. While the Book of Job only is at present in course of publication, Dr. Conant is at the same time engaged in revising his translation of the whole of the Old Testament, to be hereafter published. The Union is in fact procuring the results of Dr. Conant's investigations and studies during the last forty years at a very reasonable rate.

8. Dr. Maclay asserts that the original plan of the Union, with reference to revisions, has been departed from, the Committee in versions having assumed and exercised the power of deciding whether a revision should be printed and circulated among scholars, or not, whereas it was the standing rule that the work of every reviser should be subjected to the examination of every other reviser.

Reply. Some modification of the course of proceeding has been adopted by the Board, quite compatible however, with the standing rule of the Union, referred to above. Dr. Maclay was present when the present plan was adopted, and approved of it.

9. Dr. Maclay states that he found in some revisions various notes "of a doctrinal and practical nature," which he regards as "foreign to the work of translation, and inconsistent with the unsectarian character of the Union," besides being "attended with enormous expense."

Reply. The Board are of the same opinion, and had already taken measures to remove the evil complained of, before Dr. Maclay's letter appeared. Had he regularly attended the meetings of the Board while he was president, that portion of his letter would not have been written.

10. Dr. Maclay thinks that unnecessary expense has been incurred by "employing several revisers to translate the same book."

Reply. This has been going on for four years past, as appears by the Reports of the Union. If Dr. Maclay knew it, why did he not complain before? If he did not know it, was he not culpably negligent of his duty, in not informing himself of the plans and proceedings of the Union, which, as one of its Agents, he ought to have thoroughly understood?

11. Dr. Maclay says that in one case where a reviser was employed at \$1200 a year, another was engaged to be his assistant, at \$1400 a year.

Reply. Not quite so. The latter had finished the work assigned him. The former, who had not finished, requested that the latter might be allowed to help him, so that his work might be ready in time for the Final Committee. The request was granted.

12. Dr. Maclay states the appointment of the "Final College of Revisers" has been given to the Committee on versions, and that by that Committee the whole matter has been delegated to the Secretary, with one other member. This arrangement is considered by Dr. Maclay as extremely injudicious, inasmuch as the choice of the "Final College of Revisers" is thus practically left with one man, whose "personal predilection and prejudice" may mar the whole work.

Reply. Neither can the Secretary and his associate, nor the Committee on versions, do more than recommend persons as suitable members of the "Final College of Revisers." The appointment will be made by the Board.

13. Dr. Maclay dwells at length on the "publication department." He maintains that there was "no adequate authorization

of the Board" for issuing the Quarterly and the Monthly Reporter: that great and "unnecessary expense" has been incurred thereby; and that the salaries of persons employed by the Union, exclusive of revisers, amounts to "between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per annum."

Reply. The "authorization of the Board" was duly given, and the operations of the publication department have been sanctioned by the Committee of Inquiry. The statement about salaries is altogether incorrect.

14. Dr. Maclay specially complains of the publication of a letter from Dr. Conant.

Reply. The publication was called for, in consequence of the "great injury which the Union was sustaining from the unparalleled course of Dr. Maclay."

I will add, however, that it would have been better if Dr. Conant had not alluded to Dr. Maclay's "feeling the weight of years."

15. Dr. Maclay says that "some articles have been published in the Monthly Reporter, containing mis-statements, misrepresentations, and literary blunders, which would disgrace the meaneast scholarship of the world," and he is "credibly informed that in the Hebrew of the April number there are upwards of one hundred and forty typographical errors."

Reply. These are gross exaggerations. Dr. Judd made the same allegations in the Committee of Inquiry, and they were "fully met and disposed of."

16. Dr. Maclay finds great fault with the manner in which the financial department is managed; and specifies sundry apparent irregularities.

Reply. His assertions are not borne out by facts. The established rules for the management of the finances are regularly and faithfully observed.

17. Dr. Maclay is particularly aggrieved by the conduct of the Committee on versions towards Dr. Judd. He says that Dr. Judd was employed as a reviser at a salary of \$1500 per annum; that the Gospel of Matthew was assigned him; and that on the 30th of May last he was suddenly dismissed by the Committee on versions, without consulting the Board, whereby the revision of Matthew was arrested, and the Union deprived of the services of a man of "unquestioned qualifications as a scholar."

Reply. Dr. Judd undertook to revise the Gospel of Matthew, for one thousand dollars. This was in December, 1852. He received \$350 on account, on his own recommendation. Mr. — was employed to aid him in the revision of Matthew; he laboured seven months, and received \$583 33. On the 24th of May, 1854, the Committee on versions engaged Dr. Judd "in the service of the Bible Union," as a reviser for one year, from the 1st of June, at a salary of \$1500. He continued in the service of the Union two years, when he was dismissed by the same Committee which had engaged him. The reasons assigned were—that he had not given his time to the Union, according to the contract—that he and his assistant had received \$3933 33, but that the Board had received from him the first three chapters of Matthew revised, and nothing more—that the assistant had completed fourteen chapters of the same Gospel which Dr. Judd refused to give up, and that he also refused to furnish any information respecting the time when the work would be probably completed. In fact, it was an unprofitable contract.

18. Dr. Maclay labours throughout his letter to produce an impression unfavourable to the Secretary, Mr. Wyckoff. He traces almost all the alleged evils to Mr. Wyckoff. He predicts ruin as the natural result of the measures introduced by Mr. Wyckoff. Ac-