

ABS Historical Essay #16, IV
Text and Translation, 1860-1900

D. European Languages

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TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Part IV - 1861-1900

Section D - European Languages

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I. Introduction and general summary

In general in European languages the ABS printed the standard versions in use in the churches in the home country. It aided in publication abroad by financing such editions and at home by publishing its own copies when the demand made that seem more economical than importing. In Spanish and Portuguese the ABS felt a responsibility greatly to increase production to meet the increasing demand in Latin America. Revisions were in process in most of the European languages to meet changing language and advancing scholarship.

Toward the end of the period there came requests for Scriptures in Norwegian as well as the very closely related Danish, and the ABS shared in the publication in Chicago of a Norwegian Bible containing a recent revision of the Old Testament with a slightly older New Testament.

Confusion of texts was particularly apparent in French. In 1880 the Versions Committee approved for ABS use both the Segond and a revision of the Ostervald versions for it was pointed out that in French there was no such standard accepted version as in English and German. ABS aided the Bible Society of France and some others in the publication of various revisions of the Ostervald during these years. The Committee was kept informed of developments in revision in German but took no steps except to try to make its New York editions typographically as accurate as possible. Meanwhile it aided in the publication in Bremen of 391,893 volumes of German Scriptures, mostly for use in Germany, and in St. Petersburg or Berlin of 95,000 in the Reval dialect of Estonian, and in Paris, 545,876 French Scriptures. In 1893 all ABS stock and plates in Reval Estonian were turned over to the BFBS.

To meet the insistent demand from Brazil and Spanish America for good Protestant translations reflecting current use of the languages, particularly on this

side of the Atlantic, the Secretaries of both the ABS and the BFBS searched constantly but with little success. Scholars in the Iberian peninsula felt any translation must be up to their standard and not depart far from venerated versions, but missionaries in the New World wanted to go further. Not being native-born speakers of Spanish or Portuguese, their authority was not recognized in Europe. The American missionaries wanted a revision of the Almeida Protestant text and not of the Figueirido Roman Catholic version, which the BFBS often published without notes.

In Brazil a Presbyterian missionary, A. L. Blackford, and other missionaries worked on a revision, printing in Rio some tentative New Testament parts. The ABS re-published their edition of 1 and 2 Peter in New York in 1879. There were suggestions for joint committees but the BFBS idea seemed to be that the people in Portugal would produce a text to be submitted for comment to the Brazilian group - definitely a one sided project even if expenses should be shared. The Brazilian suggestion was for equal committees working simultaneously and sharing comment and suggestions. Although the BFBS kept on with revisions, nothing happened in Brazil beyond the publication of Blackford's New Testament in Rio in 1879 at ABS expense. Mr. Blackford had spent so much time on the New Testament and raising some funds for its publication that he was dropped as ABS agent. Permission was secured from the BFBS in 1895 to make plates in New York for their 1894 edition of the amended Almeida text. This was published in 1899.

The only constructive step the ABS took was, at the insistence of Dr. H. C. Tucker, its agent in Brazil, the publication in 1902 of a version of the Psalms translated by Sr. F. R. dos Sanctos Saraiva, first published privately with full notes in 1898.

A further revision of the Valera Spanish text was prepared by Dr. Angel de Mora and published in 1865. All the changes had been made in consultation with Dr. Gilman and several members of the Versions Committee. But it did not satisfy the need for one generally accepted Valera or Protestant Spanish Bible.

In Spanish the outstanding development was the translation instigated and prepared by the Rev. H. B. Pratt, a Presbyterian missionary who had been secured to work with Dr. de Mora on the Valera revision but who had been prevented from so doing by the Civil War. He had begun the work while a missionary in Colombia. There he published tentative editions of some of the Psalms and New Testament selections for criticism. Forced to leave Colombia in 1878 he offered his translation of the Psalms to the ABS, free, for publication. Reports were so satisfactory that the ABS published the Psalms in 1879. This was followed in 1886 by Genesis. Inspired by a memorial from Methodist missionaries in Mexico on the pressing need for a uniform text and the suggestion from the BFBS that Mr. Pratt work simultaneously with their agent in Spain, E. Reeves Palmer, the ABS engaged Mr. Pratt on a full time basis in 1886. There was some exchange of material between the two but very little. In 1888 Mr. Pratt was sent to Mexico for the first intermission conference and remained there several years working with missionaries and local scholars on his translation. Parts of the Old Testament were hectographed and widely circulated for criticism. The whole Bible was published in 1893, with poetry passages indented according to the laws of Hebrew poetry, new references, etc. Unfortunately named *La Version Moderna*, because it aimed at current language usage, and was compared with the ERV, it was actually planned for general use in Spanish America. It was often reprinted into the 20th century.

II. Significant editions in European Languages published by
the ABS, 1861-1900 #

- Norwegian: 1893* Bible, New York, 18mo, roman letter (OT rev. of 1888,
NT, 1873)
- French: 1863* New Testament and Psalms, New York
- Estonian: Reval: 1878* Bible, Berlin, revised edition
- Hungarian: 1885* Matthew, New York; Matthew with English 1895.
- Italian: 1864* New Testament, Florence Diodati.
1868* Bible, Florence, Diodati
- Polish: 1893* New Testament and Psalms, New York
- Portuguese: 1879* 1 and 2 Peter, New York and Matthew,* Rio de Janeiro
Blackford's Version
1879* New Testament, Rio de Janeiro. Blackford's Version
1899* Bible, New York. ABS edition of BFBS Almeida
- Spanish: 1865* Bible, New York
1872 New Testament, with English, De Mora-Gilman further corrected.
1874* Matthew, Matamoros, Mexico
1876* Bible, deMora-Gilman further revised Royal 8 vo Ref.
* " " " " " " Agate 16mo
1879* Psalms, New York. Pratt's Version
1886* Genesis, New York, Pratt's Version
1893* Bible, New York. Version Moderna.
- Swedish: 1874* Bible, New York, 12mo.

#/ See also Essay 18, Part IV, section D.

* Copy in ABS Library.

III. Danish and Norwegian Scriptures

An interesting point came up in connection with Danish Scriptures published by the ABS. In 1875 the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church wanted to omit in Danish Bibles all numbering of the ten commandments. This numbering conformed to the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Catechism numbering, which differs from standard Protestant numeration. The Versions Committee referred the matter to its member, the Rev. John Cotton Smith, who reported with a history of Danish versions, pointing out that the commandments were not numbered in the 1633 edition nor in any German Lutheran editions in the ABS Library although they were so numbered in all the Danish Bibles of the ABS and the BFBS. This was done in no other ABS editions in any language. Inquiry failed to turn up any evidence of possible objections, so the Committee voted to omit the numeration (V 3.29.1875, 1.3.1876).

ABS editions in Danish were also used for Norwegians until ABS began publishing a Norwegian Bible in roman letter in 1893.

Norwegian does not appear in the minutes until 1889 when the Prof. F. A. Schmidt of Northfield, Minn. reported the Lutherans of the northwest wanted a revised edition and the Versions Committee recommended that all future ABS editions in Norwegian should follow it (V 2.1.89). Then the Rev. Ch. Treider of the Norwegian Publishing Ass'n of the Methodist Episcopal Church wanted the ABS to purchase from it a set of plates for an 18mo Bible in a new version on which the Norwegian Bible Society had been engaged for 60 years. Two editions had already been sold out and a third was soon to be issued. He wanted this as a cheap edition for Sunday schools, cheaper than they could issue. They would then add to their printing Helps to Bible Study, at a higher price, producing a much needed Teachers Bible (C 1.31 and 11.27.1889). The Versions Committee had approved and the only

problem was of format and type. Mr. Treider soon wrote that gothic letter was going out and roman letter should be used. There were a million Norwegians in the country and 40,000 in Chicago. He suggested that the ABS restrict itself for five years to the cheaper bindings but it was agreed that the ABS should maintain the right to carry some better bindings (P 2.27 and 3.27.1889). Production was delayed because of new corrections from the revisers, which it turned out would necessitate an additional expense of \$400 for correcting the 235 pages already plated, or \$100 to make the most important. This question the Publication Committee referred to the Versions Committee (P 10.30.1889). After correspondence with Mr. Treider and Professor Schmidt the Versions Committee approved following all the corrections of the latest edition of the Norwegian BS, as previously approved (V 11.2 and 30, 1889). Before the book was printed, however, it was recommended to the Versions Committee and approved by them, that since the New Testament revision was not yet accepted, the Bible should contain the new Old Testament but the old New Testament (V 4.30.1892). The book was actually issued in 1893, 18mo, roman letter, at 40¢ in cloth, 50¢ roan, 70¢ roan gilt and 90¢ roan circuit (P 1.29.1890 and 5.24.1893).

This New Testament would seem to be DM 3217, 1873, NBS, revised by J. F. Deitrichson, G. C. Johnson and C. P. P. Essendorp, and the Old Testament issued in parts from 1876 to 1888 (DM 3221, 3224 and 3228).

In 1895 there was a good bit of correspondence initiated by Baptists in regard to the translation of a phrase in Matthew 28:19, not however relating to the method of baptizing for the Norwegian word seems related to the German. Since the version made by Lutherans was accepted by the Methodists and no other complaints had been received, the Versions Committee decided against making any change (V 3.2,30, 4.27, 5.31.1895).

There seems to have been no change in the Danish edition.

IV. Reval Estonian Scriptures

In 1862 the AR could report (p. 72) that an edition of 10,000 Testaments was being printed and would be paid for in good part by "avails." It was not completed until 1864 (AR 1863, p. 84, and 1864 p. 92). In 1863 also the Versions Committee approved the request of Andrew Murray of St. Petersburg to print 20,000 New Testaments, suggesting a new version that had already passed its final revision and been publically approved by the clergy and adopted generally by the church (V 11.30.1863). A small pocket Testament for the young and for soldiers was authorized but was somewhat delayed because of uncertainty about the up-coming revision. (AR 1867, p. 94 and 1868, p. 100). When Mr. G. H. Prince wrote in 1875 that he was not sure the Estonians would accept the revision made by the church the Versions Committee decided to leave the matter up to him (V 10.4.1875). DM lists ABS Testaments and Psalms for 1865 and 1875. The AR for 1874 (p. 105) reports that in September 1873 the ABS Board authorized 20,000 Bibles and 20,000 Testaments but because of the uncertainty on the new version published only 10,000 Testaments. Still accepting the judgment of Mr. Prince the Versions Committee approved his request to print the revised Bible in which changes in orthography and grammar had had ecclesiastical approval, although the changes bothered some of the older people (V 1.3.1876).

DM lists a Bible dated 1878 published by the ABS in Berlin in a revised edition prepared by C. Malm, a pastor of Rapel but has not information about another revision during this period (DM 3552). It also lists another Testament and Psalms in 1883 (DM 3553, 3554, separate Psalms). Publication Committee minutes raise the question of printing the Bible in a new text in New York or Berlin and refer the matter to the Versions Committee (P 12.24.1878). Publication minutes then report a decision to make electros for a 12mo ref. Bible, 10,000 copies, plates and material

to cost \$3,000. This was reported completed and another 10,000 approved, to be bound in cloth and roan. The Bible was to be listed at 55¢ in leather, 45¢ in cloth (P 4.23, 5.28, 8.27, 10.29, 1879). This was reprinted in 1887, 5,000 copies (p 7.26.1887).

In 1893 Mr. Sharpe of the BFBS wrote (C 9.30.1893) that the government of Esthonia had stopped ABS Bible work in that region so they had authorized their agent Mr. Nicolson to purchase all available ABS stock in Russia and the BFBS requested permission to have an edition of the Bible printed in Berlin from ABS plates, without any alteration. The Distribution Committee (D 10.5.1893, M 10.5.1893) reported that work there had been severely hampered for the past four years and therefore recommended granting the permission to print the Bible and to turn over to the BFBS all the Scripture stock bound and unbound, valued at \$1,500, or £125 and Dr. Gilman so informed both Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Prince (C 10.6.1893).

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V. French Scriptures

When the ABS set out to make electroplates for a new French Testament and Psalms, the Board requested the Versions Committee to decide what version should be followed. The Committee agreed that it should be the Ostervald version but the printing department soon reported that there were many discrepancies between the various editions available. The Committee ordered that where there was agreement, follow that, but for differences from previous ABS editions, follow previous ABS, and in the matter of orthography, follow the most recent edition; but the Committee did not say whose most recent edition (V 11.10 and 12.2.1862). By the following June they could report that the "revision" had been completed according to these rules and Mr. Parson of the Printing Department was awarded \$50 for extra work (V 6.29 and 11.30.1863).

In 1873 the Rev. Elie Charlier presented a corrected edition of the French-English Testament, most of the corrections involving word division and accents. The ABS printer was ordered to correct only typographical errors (V 3.3 and 9.29, 1873).

The Second version and a revision of Ostervald were approved for ABS use by the Versions Committee in 1880 when it was pointed out that in French there was no such standard accepted version as in English and German. Frequent changes appeared in all French versions (V 2.28.1880).

When the question of new plates for an Ostervald Bible came up, at the recommendation of Dr. Crosby and Dr. Crook, it was decided that the ABS should follow the revised Ostervald by Ch. L. Frossard recently published by the BS of France (V 11.26, 12.30.1881 and 4.1.1882). This was the New Testament issued in 1873 (DM 3973). In a letter of July 1879 Mr. Lambert of the BS of France had written to Mr. Wright of the BFBS that already they had published eight editions, totalling

110,000 copies and the NBSS had issued one in 1878 and the Trinitarian BS was about to print an edition. DM lists a Bible of 1876 (DM 3982) with the 1873 New Testament, printed at the expense of the ABS. The Psalms revised by Mr. G. Monod had also been published in 1875 (DM 3980) and the whole Bible in 1881 (DM 3996). This text was approved by the BFBS in 1884, and approval by the ABS was requested in 1886 but no committee action is recorded (V 3.27.1886). The AR of 1882 (p. 100) reported a donation from the ABS which made possible a pocket edition of this version by the BS of France, and the AR of 1889 reported another appropriation of \$3,000 for a new edition of the New Testament by the BS of France.

A further revision was undertaken by the French Protestant Church in the 1890's, through a committee representing the Protestant churches of France, Belgium and Switzerland, appointed by the French Protestant Synod meeting at Marseilles in 1881. A tentative edition of the New Testament was issued in 1895 (DM 4025). This was reported to the Versions Committee in 1894 (V 3.2.). At the same meeting was read a letter from the Rev. A. U. Wittmeyer of New York urging that more of the recent French versions be made available in the US through the ABS. Later in the year the Rev. E. Bertrand of the BS of France reported progress on the Old Testament and formal Synod approval of the 1894 New Testament. Early in 1900 the Committee learned of the completion of the revision (V 12.28.1895 and 3.24.1900).

VI. German Scriptures

In its efforts to supply German readers in this country with accurate editions of the Luther text, the ABS frequently sought guidance as to the latest editions from Germany. In 1863 when the Rev. J. H. Oerter of New York City called the Society's attention to some errors in its text, the Versions Committee requested its member Dr. Philip Schaff to investigate. He found the book Mr. Oerter referred to had been printed in 1856 (supposedly a carefully proofread edition); but that the ABS now had an 1863 edition that was correct in most of the places Mr. Oerter had cited. While a great improvement over the earlier edition, that of 1863 was by no means free of inaccuracies. A note on the letter (Dr. Gilman's?) suggests that it would be well to procure a standard edition approved in the evangelical church in Germany, a recommendation subsequently made by the Committee. (V 11.30.1863 and 2.1.1863 and C 1.9.1864).

A problem associated with German Scriptures printed in Germany, which often came up later, was that these often contained references to the saint's days and other festivals of the German Church as well as the Apocrypha. The Versions Committee recorded its intention that hereafter all German Bibles printed in Germany for the ABS must conform to New York ABS editions in such matters (V 9.29.1862). The ABS printer, Mr. Martin, reported to the Committee in 1865 that plates from Bremen contained some typographical errors, some references were omitted but references to holy days were included. The Committee said to correct the errors and remove the references to the feast days (V 5.29.1865). In 1886 the ABS refused the offer of quarto sheets of a German Bible published by A. J. Holman in Philadelphia because it included the notations on the feast days, etc. (V 1.30.1886).

In the files is an interesting letter to a Dr. Thompson from George Palmer Davies (BFBS agent in Berlin, C 1.12.1875) describing a new edition of the New

Testament published under his auspices. There had been prepared for approval of the Eisenach Conference, "the only body which although only in a shadowy and unauthoritative way, represents the Church Government of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Germany," a text that was published in 1870 and approved by the Prussian BS and by the Württemberg BS as to text but not as to orthography. Mr. Davies had recommended to the BFBS in London adoption of the text with certain changes. He found the textual changes numbered 259. 221 of these brought the Luther text into harmony with the AV and 8 with the AV marginal renderings. Of the remaining 30, the BFBS accepted 28 and adjusted two by putting the revised rendering in the margin (John 4:24 and Heb. 1:7). His advice to the ABS was to adopt all 259 in the text. The BFBS also adopted all the punctuation changes but not those in orthography. The orthography had been entrusted to one individual, "the highest living authority on Middle High German," who introduced archaic forms that had died out long since. "To his ears living in the writings of three or four centuries ago, these forms sing like sweet music. It is not the case with the men of the present generation." Mr. Davies had this work done in BFBS editions by a competent scholar, for which he had just received congratulations from Professor Grimm at Jena. The Versions Committee noted this edition and recommended securing copies (V 3.29.1875). A matching Bible appeared in 1883 (DM 4439) but this was not accepted (V 10.31.1885). A further revision appeared in 1892 (DM 4456).

In 1876 the Committee refused the request of Dr. A. Schreiber of Barmen for a German Bible in roman letter for use in Brazil. The minutes note that roman letter had not been successful in Sweden (V 1.3.1876).

The ABS published German Scriptures in Germany and in New York during these years.

VII. Italian Scriptures

There seems to have been no question about Italian versions other than Diodati during this period except that one letter has been found on the subject of the version offered to the ABS in 1854 (See Essay 16, Part III D-17) by G. Achilli. While on a journey in Europe Mr. Bergne of the BFBS wrote from Vienna (C 9.2.1871) that at the request of Dr. Holdich he had inquired about Achilli's version for the latter was still going about the United States telling how popular it was in Italy because of its appeal to the Italian mind. Mr. Bergne found it almost completely unknown in Italy and the few people who knew of it condemned it. The more familiar they were with it the more soundly they condemned it! Dr. de Sanctis said it was not even an original version but "Diodati, patched and disfigured by alterations, none of which possess the slightest merit." Dr. de Sanctis, who had known Achilli at college said he was quite without the necessary qualifications for such work. It was an immersionist version. He understood it was printed at Hamburg in collaboration with Mr. Oncken.

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VIII. Polish Scriptures

In 1868 the secretaries received a letter from Count Wengierski from England (C 5.27.1868) complimenting the ABS on its share in producing the Arabic version and asking if it could aid in a new translation in Polish for which the BFBS had refused aid. Dr. Holdich replied (C 7.21.1868) that the ABS was then committed to other projects to the limit of its resources but if there was some specific way in which the ABS could aid at some later time to let him know. In 1870 the Gospels and Acts, containing a revision, from the Greek, of the Danzig version sponsored by the Count was published in London by the Trinitarian BS, which also published his New Testament in 1873.

In 1893 the ABS yielded to the calls for Polish Scriptures by making plates for a New Testament and Psalms, 24mo, from the BFBS text. This was issued in 1893; the plates costing \$537.80. The number of copies was 9,664, the list price being 10¢ for the New Testament alone and 12¢ with Psalms (P 5.24 and 8.30.1893). In 1896 an article in the "Converted Catholic" was called to the attention of the Versions Committee in February to the effect that there were no Polish Scriptures in Polish homes because there was no good translation for the two million Poles in the U.S. The Committee denied this, pointing to the distribution by the ABS in the U.S. in 1890 - 1895 of 566 Polish Bibles and 5,923 Testaments (V 2.29.1896).

IX. Portuguese Scriptures

As was reported in Essay 16, Part III (D11-16), by the end of 1860 the ABS had published a New Testament prepared by the Rev. A. de Mattos on the basis of a TBS edition. Consideration of an Old Testament was delayed pending publication of a TBS edition. The BFBS had decided that it was futile to try to distribute a Protestant version in so strongly Roman Catholic a country and was publishing the Figueiredo Version, without the notes or the Apocrypha. The ABS was continuing to publish the Almeida New Testament and Bible from plates made in the 1840's. None of these satisfied the missionaries.

The BFBS was seeking a revision of the Old Testament by the Rev. Joao J. de Graca of Lisbon. The Board asked the Versions Committee to consider cooperating but action was deferred (V 6.30.1867) and in 1869 de Graca himself wrote about his work, asking support. The BFBS wrote early in 1868 about their hopes for the work and the edition of Psalms then being printed but the Committee decided against taking part (V 3.1.1869). Copies of a BFBS revision of the Almeida New Testament were presented to the Committee (V 5.4.1868). Mr. Bergne remarked "How perplexing and disappointing these efforts at correcting and improving translations frequently prove--scholars differ so in their theories of language that praise and censure are sometimes pretty equally balanced."

In 1872 the TBS published a Bible newly revised by Thomas Boys who had been working on revision for a good many years (DM 7539). The BFBS in 1869 issued a tentative edition of Genesis in a revision of the Almeida text by Manoel Soares and of the Psalms in 1873. Mr. Soares was aided by Mr. Girdlestone, of the BFBS. Mr. Girdlestone wrote in 1872 (C 10.8.1872) that he felt the problems of orthography etc., were now solved and the BFBS was printing at Lisbon an 8vo Bible, in which the New Testament would have only the most important references. He wrote

in December that the work followed the AV and the ABS could be assured of its fidelity to the original texts (C 12.5.1872). This was reported to the Committee in December along with other letters all recommending the new BFBS text (V 12.30.1872). It was voted to recommend that it would be permissible for the ABS to import copies. The Rev. D. P. Kidder of Drew Theological Seminary wrote high praise (C 1.6.1873). The Publication Committee therefore ordered 1,000 copies from the BFBS (P 1.29.1873). The book appeared in 1875 (DM 7542).

In 1877 Mr. Milne wrote (C 2.26.1877) that a revision of the Almeida text was badly needed for use in Brazil and a project for revision by A. L. Blackford of the Presbyterian Mission, who had been handling some distribution for the ABS and had become agent in 1876. The Versions Committee approved his plan to print in Rio tentative editions of Peter and other New Testament books translated by himself and the other missionaries. It was voted to supply funds up to \$200 to meet this expense (V 6.4, 10.27 and 12.29, 1877). The Versions Committee approved publication of the Eps. of Peter in New York (V 12.28.1878) but they were not printed until 1879.

Mr. Blackford's entire New Testament was printed in Brazil at ABS expense in 1879 (DM 7547) but Mr. Blackford spent so much time on the revision and seeing it through the press, that it was felt he was neglecting the work as agent and the Agency Committee decided it was no longer expedient to keep him in the post (A 12.29.1879). He had raised locally some of the funds for publishing the New Testament (V 4.26, 11.29.1879)

In Dr. Gilman's notes prepared in 1879 on this matter are some interesting additional comments. He quotes Mr. Blackford as saying (2.6.1879) that he doubted if anyone in Brazil, native or foreign, properly qualified, would accept a position on such a committee* under such terms. Mr. Carvalho, a missionary at Campos and

*/ See bottom of p. 18.

a native of Madeira, wrote Mr. Blackford that Mr. Stewart had difficulty making himself understood in Portuguese and did not preach in it (3.3.1879). A later note quotes Mr. Ransom that Mr. Blackford was by far a better Portuguese scholar and proofreader than any the BFBS had (8.28.1880).

About the same time the BFBS acknowledged that it still seemed desirable to improve the Portuguese Bible for use in Portugal but "that it is generally acknowledged that what might be considered best results for Portugal would not be suitable for Brazil. We should be glad of any information that would tend to make these points less obscure" (C Wright 7.11.1877). Still feeling that different editions were needed in the two areas (Brazil and Portugal) Mr. Wright wrote a year later that in most respects he thought the tentative Peter very good (7.2.1878). He also mentioned an edition of the Figueiredo New Testament the BFBS was printing with alternative readings "from the original for all readings which might be used in support of error." (This was not published until 1884 - DM 7551).

What is to be done? It seems to me that a new translation from the originals, on the basis of Almeida's version, is not more than the Christian public may demand from two such Societies as yours and ours....I think the work should be somehow the result of the best Port. scholarship on both sides of the Atlantic, even though much time might be lost in passing and repassing the sheets, and should the work not be done by the two Societies?

Mr. Wright got more and more interested in a jointly supported Portuguese version for further investigation had shown the need for a better text and the need for different editions for Portugal and Brazil. His committee had authorized him to correspond with the ABS about forming a committee in Portugal to cooperate with one in Brazil. The committee in Portugal would consist of their agent Mr. Stuart (Stewart) who had had a good deal of experience putting material through the press for the RTS and who had aided in the preparation of the Figueiredo Testament with

alternative readings. There would also be Messrs. Pope and Moreton, sound scholars and several converted priests and other Portuguese students. He suggested leaving critical questions to himself and the BFBS Editorial Sub-Committee. The committee in Portugal would print sheets of their revision and send them to Brazil for suggestions (C 11.24.1878). Dr. Adams, Dr. Smith and Dr. Chambers were appointed a special committee of the Versions Committee to consider the matter in more detail (V 12.28.1878).* Dr. Gilman was not sure if the BFBS expected the ABS to finance the Brazil Committee or to share with the BFBS in both committees (C 1.8.1879).

Nothing more appears in the Versions minutes until 1883 and 1884 when Agent Wm. M. Brown and many missionaries urged the ABS to publish a new revision or new version (V 3.31.1883 and 12.27.1884). The BFBS then suggested a thorough revision of the Figueiredo Version. The Committee deferred action while they studied the matter and conferred with friends in Brazil but the missionaries there definitely did not want any part of the Figueiredo version but either a revision of the Almeida or a fresh version. The Committee suggested that the signers of a petition (19 of them) be asked if they approve of the Blackford Testament, corrected.

* As to differences in the language in the two sides of the Atlantic we cannot resist the following paragraph from Mr. Wright's letter of 2.11.1879. He was seeking further information from Portugal but remarked:

Prima facie yr. objection is most reasonable, but practically I believe there is nothing in it. The best home English is the most accepted in America; but Californian, characteristic, English is not acceptable in England. Even Bret Harte's published lecture at the C. Palace a few nights ago was characteristically American, and wd not be tolerated here in Bible translation. This divergence wh is beginning to appear in English has been long at work in the Portuguese, and has worked I believe on the line which I have indicated. --More anon

P.S. Do not rashly widen the breach.

Investigations were also to be made to see if the Blackford Testament could be adjusted for use in Portugal (V 12.27.1884, 3.28.1885). During the year the minutes refer to plans for a version from the original texts by missionaries from Brazil and Portugal, the ABS to select the committee in Brazil and meet the expenses there, sharing in the cost of proof sheets, etc. (V 5.2., 9.26, 10.31.1885). The basic work, as originally suggested by Mr. Wright, was to be done in Portugal with review in Brazil. The first 8 chapters of Luke were however printed in Brazil by that committee showing what they wanted but Mr. Wright said the Lisbon Committee did not like it at all. Mr. Brown and Mr. Blackford felt it would be years before any agreement could be reached so it would be better to set someone like the Rev. J. J. Ransom to work on a revision of the Almeida text (V 1.2,30, 5.1,29, 6.26 and 10.30.1886). The BFBS in Lisbon printed a tentative edition of Matthew in 1886. The Lisbon committee continued with its work without Brazilian cooperation, concluding with the publication of all the New Testament through Hebrews in 1901 but in the meantime Mr. Stewart and a small committee had prepared a revision of the Almeida text that the BFBS published in 1894 (DM 7565). This edition was based on the edition of 1875 prepared by their Agent in Lisbon, Mr. Stewart and three Portuguese scholars, who changed words that were obsolete or wrong, spelling that was antiquated or wrong and grammatical constructions that were wrong or so ridiculous as to provoke mirth. Proof was read by three persons, each reading alone first and then with each other, aloud..(C 10.25 and 11.19.1894). ABS wanted 750 copies of this for each year (C Gilman to C. Finch, BFBS 6.23.1893) even before it was issued, for the 1875 edition had been found in Brazil the most satisfactory edition.

The Agent in Brazil continued to report that distribution in that country was seriously hindered by lack of a satisfactory text (V Brown, 2.26.1887, Tucker 9.29.

1888 and 4.27.1889). In 1887 a Brazilian scholar was named as a possible translator - the Rev. M. P. B. Carvalhosa (V 4.2.1887).

Dr. Tucker meanwhile was impressed with the work of Sr. F. R. dos Santos Saraiva who however declined to submit his work to criticism (V 11.2.1889, 2.1 and 4.26.1890). Brazilian pastors also continued to recommend Mr. Blackford as a competent translator. Sr. Saraiva was working on a translation of the Psalms from the Hebrew which had been examined by several Presbyterian missionaries, and in 1894 by W. A. Waddell of São Paulo. Sr. Saraiva wanted the first edition published with critical notes but he would like to have it issued under the ABS imprint but at his expense. The Versions Committee replied that "uniform usage of the Society does not allow it" (V 6.2.1894). It was published privately in 1898, with copious notes, under the title "Harpa d'Israel."

Dr. Tucker then urged that the ABS republish a BFBS edition of the Almeida text of 1894 which was somewhat amended; no current format of the BFBS would take the place of the ABS 12mo and he hoped the ABS could get permission to make plates from that edition to meet the demand in Brazil (V 10.30.1897). The Publication Committee approved the idea and secured estimates -

composition	\$1,462.56
proofreading	443.20
(2 readings)	
Plate proof	221.60
electroplating	664.80
Total	<u>\$2,792.16</u>

In 1895 the BFBS gave the ABS permission to make plates for the 1875 Bible with some corrections and the addition of references (AR 1895, p. 35). This was actually the BFBS 1894 edition, with references added. It was published in 1899.

In 1899 Dr. Tucker reported that permission had been secured for ABS to publish Sr. Saraiva's Psalms without notes, in cheap form. A few changes in proper names had been approved by the translator before his death and the publication in this form was recommended by the Presbyterian Synod and the Methodist Conference. At last the Versions committee approved its publication (V 5.27, 11.25.1899, 9.29.1900 and 3.10.1901), and it was issued in 1902.

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X. Russian Scriptures

The Levant Agency often had calls for Russian Scriptures which they had to supply from the BFBS, which got its copies from the Holy Synod in Russia. In 1865 Mr. Bliss wrote (C 4.25.1865) that a young Russian he had met in Bulgaria had told him of a new translation from the Hebrew appearing in a Moscow review* and asked why the ABS did not publish the Synod's New Testament. When told the ABS had been refused permission to print it, the young man suggested that the Synod had no control of the text outside of Russia so why should not the ABS undertake it. Mr. Bliss had already consulted a printer who would be glad to do it but he thought it might better be done in New York, both Old and New Testament. It would be very useful in Constantinople. He thought an edition of the New Testament and Psalms in pocket form could be printed, 5,000 copies, for five or six thousand dollars. Later he said he sold a lot of the old edition in Constantinople and he might get permission to print in Odessa. The man he had already consulted offered to print and proofread 5,000 Testaments, bound in roan, gilt, for \$2,328, but he would prefer plates made in New York and Mr. Long could help with the final proof-reading (C 6.21.1865). Nothing further developed but in 1868 (C 1.22) he wrote that he had consulted with Dr. Riggs and Mr. Long and had learned that the BFBS was printing the New Synod text so ABS might as well purchase from them.

The matter of ABS publication was raised with the Versions Committee in 1867 (V 12.30) and the next year on the advice of Andrew Murray in St. Petersburg, Mr. Bliss and others recommended publication of the Synod's new version by the ABS "whenever the Board of Managers should be pleased to order it" (V 5.4.1868).

* This was a new text of the Old Testament prepared under the direction of the Synod. The Pentateuch appeared alone in 1868 and the Old Testament complete in 1875. The Synod had issued a new version of the New Testament in 1862. Meanwhile the BFBS was sponsoring another version of the Old Testament which appeared in London from 1866 to 1875. There was no complete Russian Bible available until 1875.

In a letter on the problem of omitting the Apocrypha from the Ancient Armenian Bible, Mr. Bliss in Constantinople had written (C 10.19.1877) that the only Old Testament the ABS was allowed to circulate in Russia was that of the Synod translated from the Hebrew with the LXX readings in brackets, but with the Apocrypha bound up with it. This the agency purchased, feeling it was better to distribute this than nothing. This perplexed Dr. Gilman for he wrote (11.30.1877) that he was not aware that the ABS had ever sanctioned such a practice nor had the BFBS and wondered to what Russian edition Mr. Bliss referred.

Mr. Bliss replied (C 1.11.1878) that only Scriptures with the Synod's approval could be printed in Russia but that the BFBS had printed in Vienna a new version from the Hebrew text. But the ABS was not allowed to purchase these sheets for binding and sending into Russia. He doubted if he had actually supplied many Russian Bibles with the Apocrypha and had not known that the translation made from the Hebrew contained those books. Actually the book the BFBS printed in Vienna in 1877 (DM 7862) did not contain the Apocrypha.

This new BFBS text was reported to the Versions Committee the next year (V 1.30.1880) so it was agreed that there was no objection to the ABS distributing BFBS Russian Bibles.

XI. Spanish Scriptures
The search for a satisfactory Valera edition.

After experimenting with various unsatisfactory Spanish texts (see Essay 16, Parts I (p. 11), II (p. 16) and III (D 3-7), early in 1860 the Versions Committee was again asked for new improved Spanish Bibles, in literal conformity with the Hebrew and Greek. It was felt that Spanish scholars were available for putting into modern dress the excellent version of Cypriano de Valera of 1602* so it was recommended that such measures be taken (V 1.12.1860). In March they recommended that the services of Sr. de Mora of Madrid and the Rev. Mr. H. B. Pratt** of Bogota, working with Mr. Brigham, be used to produce a Spanish Bible, remuneration to be considered later and any verbal or other alterations proposed to be submitted to the Versions Committee for consideration and approval (V 3.19, 9.24).

Mr. Pratt had been very anxious that the new ABS edition of Valera should include the original preface, which he felt would greatly aid its acceptance in Latin America, and the original chapter summaries, somewhat corrected. Each book had also introductions which he felt were extremely helpful and beautifully expressed (C 11. 3.1860). The Committee voted that the headings to chapters should be revised by the three. It was evidently not considered necessary to note rejection of the introduction to the Bible or the books for the item immediately preceding the Spanish at that meeting was a vote against the inclusion of any sort of introduction to the Chinese Bible (V 11.12.1860). The salaries for Mr. Pratt and Sr. de Mora were set

* The ABS was trying to secure a copy of this edition for there is a letter from George Livermore of Boston (1.5.1860) saying that he has not been able to locate a copy in Boston nor Cambridge in a public or private library.

** In a pamphlet defending his work, issued in 1911, Mr. Pratt gives a few biographical details. Entering Princeton Seminary at 20 he spent two hours a day in study of the English Bible. In his middle year he requested the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to send him to West Africa upon graduation but instead he was assigned to Colombia. He then began to study Spanish so that when he graduated in 1855 and went the following February to Colombia he had considerable facility in the language, which he continued to study during the following 3 years.

at \$1,200 (C 2.22.1861) a year each. Then eye trouble and the disruption in communication by the Civil War made it necessary for Mr. Pratt (in North Carolina) to withdraw.

This enforced withdrawal of Mr. Pratt had caused the Versions Committee to consider for a time dropping the project. The Committee approved Psalms and Proverbs (1,000 copies each) for publication and requested Sr. de Mora to continue with the Old Testament consulting Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Jones of the Committee and Dr. Brigham, de Mora to continue at the rate of \$1,000 per year (V 11.18, 12.2 and 16, 1861, 2.3 and 3.31, 1862). A year later the Old Testament was completed and de Mora was authorized to continue with the New Testament, the salary now to be \$1,200 per year. The Versions Minutes for 1863 and 1864 continue consideration of the New Testament and then the reading of the proofs by Sr. de Mora. At the May 1 meeting in 1865 Dr. Holdich presented a long report on the history of this revision in the face of objections to the expense and length of time consumed. He concluded:

Although they may not dare to hope that the work is absolutely perfect, for that would be to claim for it what belongs to nothing human; yet they have strong persuasion that it will be found a very decided improvement on Valera's generally excellent version(It) aims to adhere as closely as modern usage of the language would admit to the version of Valera, to modernize spelling, to change obsolete words and otherwise objectionable words for words in present use, but not so to adopt modern words or phraseology as to mar the beauty of the antique style or to make an unbecoming mixture of ancient and modern";

They had followed the English text as far as idiom would permit. The Committee thanked the sub-committee, especially Dr. Schmidt, and recommended a gift of \$1,000 to de Mora, and thanks and a handsomely bound Bible to Dr. Schmidt with a copy of the resolution. The book was published in 1865 with great hopes for wide use in Spanish America.

Mr. Pratt wrote (C 11.14.1865) after examining a copy of the book just issued:

My good friend Mora, as my long and intimate acquaintance with him qualified me to know, was more than an ordinary master of Spanish, but had not nor could he have a clear notion of critical accuracy so far as the sense was concerned. In our own division of labor, he was responsible for the language, and I for the critical accuracy of the revision. He used to pass on over many things that greatly needed mending, without perceiving that need, till I followed after and called his attention to them. It is, I assure you, one of the few great disappointments of my life, that I could not go on with him till the work was done; and the more so as two men never wrought together in greater harmony than did we.

He requested two copies of the Bible so that he might note in one of them all the remaining inaccuracies, etc.

Dr. Holdich was distressed at the errors Mr. Pratt then noticed and the latter explained further what had been his part in the work (C 4.26.1866):

I must say in justification that Mr. Mora had no part of the Bible which I had reviewed except the New Testament (barring the Revelation, which I have here), or that we had made but a partial revision of it, having determined to leave many things unsettled, till we came to revise it again before publication, our intention was to revise the Old Testament once, but the New Test. twice as its critical accuracy was most important.

He pointed out that the Valera version was printed nine years before the AV was published and that Mr. Mora had no critical knowledge of Scripture, nor even of the present English version. At that time Mr. Pratt doubted that he would ever return to South America because of lack of cooperation between the northern and southern Presbyterians, for his home was in the South.

A point of interest in this connection is committee action in 1868 by which the word "Palabra" was ordered changed to "Verbo," Dr. Schmidt to make a list of the places where this was to be done. At the next meeting he reported changes to be made in John 1:1, 14, I John 1:1, 5:7 and Rev. 19:13 (V 5.4. and 9.28.1868).

About this time, in writing to Mr. Girdlestone of the BFBS, Dr. Holdich said he was at a loss to know what to do about a Spanish Bible (C 7.13.1869): The ABS edition was better than the Valera but what were they to do? All the criticisms came from Mexico and South America. "We do not know how far to rely on them!" He would like a comparison of the BFBS and ABS editions. There should be one as near perfect as possible and both Societies use it. "How can this be secured?"

Criticism of the Spanish-English Diglot New Testament

Then there arose criticism of the ABS 1853 Spanish-English diglot. This had actually first appeared in 1850 and was prepared by Secretary Brigham and "a well educated native of Madrid" (AR 1851, p. 30). G. W. Perkin of Bethlehem, Pa., sent in a list of errors, mostly typographical (C 11.1868 and 3.4.1869). Dr. Schmidt was asked to examine these. He reported that many of them were not important, but that on the whole the punctuation, spelling and accentuation of the diglot were so bad that the book should never be reprinted (V 5.3., 2.1, 5.3.1869, 1.30.1871).

The "well-educated native of Madrid" was probably Sr. Alberto Tornos. This New Testament was still being published in 1950 in spite of many complaints about the inaccuracy of the text and the many typographical corrections. For some years a BFBS diglot New Testament was also circulated by the ABS. In 1950 Dr. Eugene A. Nida, ABS Secretary for Translations, made a careful examination of the ^{ABS} book, on the basis of which it was determined not to reprint this edition. An examination of Matthew and Mark and Romans-Philippians showed that there were an average of 17.6 mistakes per page in accentuation; at least two spelling errors to a page; more than one grammatical error, and one in punctuation at least every two pages. Although it varies often from the Valera text, a number of important improvements had been made, but, as Dr. Nida stated, "the exceptionally poor editing is a disgrace

to the American Bible Society." Among the exegetical errors are John 1:1 which reads "God was the Word," I Cor. 2:16 which reads "we have understood the mind of Christ" instead of "we have the mind of Christ;" Col. 1:13 the phrase "beloved son" is translated "son of his love," as Dr. Nida notes, "a phrase with strong possibilities of wrong interpretation." (Memo to Dr. North, Dr. Darlington and Mr. Collyer 3.20.1950).

The ABS 1876 Valera edition

The Secretaries were requested to secure a competent proofreader and produce a new edition. The services of J. de Palma were reported secured. He proceeded to prepare several editions, including a reference Bible.

The text was to be based on the BFBS Madrid edition for the Committee had stated in 1874 (V 8.31.1874) that since this edition had been highly recommended they felt it would be safe for the Society to print it whenever the Board might see proper to do so although the Committee could not recommend any changes or alterations other than typographical. At the next meeting it was reported that the Board had endorsed approval of that version in October (V 11.2.1874).

Sr. de Palma was authorized to correct manifest typographical errors and adopt a more uniform and improved orthography for proper names. He was to receive \$400 for this. In the matter of references he was instructed that those marginal readings of the English Bible which present an alternate reading or give a more literal rendering of the Hebrew and which are designated ordinarily by * or † be omitted and all others retained, translating when need by the words fulfilled, called, etc. (V 3.29.1875)

The Committee also authorized certain changes to conform to BFBS London and Oxford editions and also ordered, at the suggestion of Mr. Milne of Montevideo, that in addition to the list of books, there also be given the page number on which the text starts, in addition to the number of chapters each contains (V 10.4.1875). Two Bibles and a Testament were published in 1875 and 1876.

H. B. Pratt and the Version Moderna

In September 1871 Mr. H. B. Pratt, from Barranquilla, Colombia, sent in a revision of the New Testament and Psalms, as a free will offering, which he wanted the Board to print in a small tentative edition for criticism.

In an accompanying letter to the Versions Committee he urged approval of the use of "Señor" rather than Jehovah, for the latter was completely unknown. He also hoped that the English Committee (ERV) would not decide to support that term in their new version. This was referred to Dr. Schmidt (V 1.29.1872). In April the Committee recommended publication of a few pages to circulate for criticism (V 4.1.1872). At the same meeting the Committee recommended that in Gen. 3:15 the word "esta" be used for "ella" and that "herencia" be used throughout for "heredad," points that had been under discussion and study for some time and recommended by Mr. dePalma. In December the matter of publication of Pratt's New Testament and Psalms was referred to a sub-committee (Schmidt and Chambers) which reported in March (V 12.1.1873, 3.2.1874).

In one of his letters (C 5.19.1873) of the period Mr. Pratt told Dr. Holdich that he did not agree that help from Spain must eventually determine the Bible for the Americas for

Spanish America has produced as thorough and competent Spanish scholars as any that boast of Spanish birth; the 30 or 40 millions of Spanish Americans ought at least to weigh as much in the account as the 10 to 15 millions of Spaniards. I see no reason why we may not have a Spanish Bible of our own, which by its sterling merits shall force its acceptance even in Spain in spite of the superciliousness and self-complacent pride of the nations of the Iberian peninsula.

However in 1874 the Committee decided it was not expedient to make any further revisions of the Valera but to await the appearance of a completely new translation (V 3.2.1874).

Mr. Pratt* however kept on working on translation in addition to editing a small religious paper in Colombia. In 1876 he sent out parts of the Psalms locally printed (150 copies, DM 8578) for criticism but the next year he was forced to suspend publication after issuing Matthew because of a war there. Back in the United States in 1878 he wrote that it had been a mistake for him to go to Colombia when he had wished to go to Mexico. He felt his work on the Psalms, now completed, was his only justification for the 9½ years spent there. He now offered his completed translation of the Psalms and hoped the ABS would publish it (C 9.19. 1878). Before he sent in the corrected text he wrote in great excitement that he had just discovered an old gentleman who seemed to be a very thorough student of Hebrew who was just beginning to instruct himself and a Mr. Foot. He hoped to get some real light on some of his problems. It was not until February 1879 that he shipped the corrected manuscript to New York for publication. The Versions Committee had authorized publication of 500 copies in the previous October if submission of part of the work to various scholars warranted it (V 9.28 and 10.26.1878). It appeared in 1879 (DM 8585). This translation of the Psalms was incorporated into a Valera Bible printed by the BFBS in 1883 in Barcelona and at least one edition was printed in Madrid (Pratt's pamphlet - "History of the Version Moderna. . . . 1911," p. 15).

Demands for a standard text continued. A printed memorial on the subject was considered by the Versions Committee in 1882, sent by Thomas B. Wood in charge of Methodist work in southeastern South America and Charles W. Drees in charge of the work in Mexico of the Methodist Episcopal Church (22 pages).

Preceding and following all other forms of labor has been the circulation of the Scriptures in the Spanish language.

* See footnote page 25.

It pointed out the inconvenience to this work of the variety of revisions of the Valera being produced in England and the United States. It urged cooperation with the BFBS if possible but in any case it stated that the responsibility for action was that of the ABS. The work should be done by missionaries on the field as part of their work. The Committee deferred action but requested the Secretary to inquire into the possibility of further plate correction (V 12.30.1882 and similarly 1.27, 2.24, 6.2.1883).

In 1884 Mr. Pratt requested that the ABS issue a tentative edition of his translation of Genesis. Reports came in from many people recommending his translation of the Psalms, including Mr. Milne from Montevideo and Professor A. P. Mendes of Newport (a Sephardim rabbi), who had been paid \$50 for examining the Psalms. It was not until a year later that the manuscript was actually received, and recommendations made as to paragraph division and style of accessories. The paragraph arrangement was approved but not the headings (V 11.29, 12.27.1884, 2.28, 9.26, 10.31, 11.28.1885 and 1.2.1886). The book was issued in 1886 (DM 8598).

By that time it was reported that E. Reeves Palmer, BFBS Agent in Spain, was working on the Valera and the suggestion was made that Mr. Palmer and Mr. Pratt might work together. It was then recommended that Mr. Pratt, now serving as a pastor in Lancaster, South Carolina, be hired at full time to prepare a new version of the Spanish Bible under the direction of the Committee, for a period not exceeding two years from the first of the April, 1886, at a salary of \$2,000 a year (V 1.30, 2.27.1886). (This was renewed for a year (V 11.26.1887).) During the next few years some of Pratt's work was sent to Mr. Palmer and was criticized by him, and Pratt did the same for some of Palmer's work.

In 1888 Mr. Pratt was sent to Mexico to attend the first intermissionary conference and a Committee was formed in Mexico to help him. It was arranged for Mr. Pratt to remain there and to award him \$20 a month for extra expenses while there. Mr. Wood in Buenos Aires put in a good deal of time examining the version. Parts of the Old Testament were hectographed as the work progressed and sent around for criticism. In February 1890 it was reported to the Versions Committee that the committee had finished revising the Pentateuch. Various people who had seen parts of the text praised it highly. In September of 1890 the Versions Committee recognized gratefully the assistance of many missionaries in Mexico during the past three years, particularly Rev. H. C. Thomson, D.D., and the Rev. Carlos Bransby. In November the Committee requested Mr. Pratt and his wife to return to this country to complete the work (removal expenses to be compensated and his salary to be \$2,000 a year). The Rev. J. M. Lopez-Gillen was to be secured to spend 12 hours a week to criticize the Spanish and to read proof (to come to about \$350) and a Hebrew scholar was to be secured to check the basic text, for since the book was to appear under an ABS imprint

the rendering of the Hebrew in all doubtful cases, should be in accord with the general consensus of Christian scholars even when it does not agree with individual judgment of the translator.

In the matter of diction, Mr. Lopez-Gillen's advice was to be conclusive but Pratt might appeal to the Committee where he did not concur. The Rev. Randall C. Hall, D.D. of General Theological Seminary was later secured to help with the Hebrew text. Mr. Pratt's salary was later raised to \$2,240 a year and Mr. Lopez-Gillen was to put in 3 hours a day at \$18 a week with no proofreading (V 1.31.1891). Dr. Pratt's salary was raised to \$2,500 in 1891. The text was to be printed in parallel column, with AV verse division and paragraph marks with references

limited to citations and parallel passages and such marginal readings as may be necessary at the foot of the page. There was to be no chronology and brackets might be used where the true text was doubtful.

The work on the New Testament was not completed until February 28, 1893, the Old Testament having been commenced on April 1, 1886. The Versions Committee recommended a vote of thanks for the Rev. H. C. Thomson of the Presbyterian Mission in Mexico and to Mr. Lopez-Gillen and to Dr. Randall Hall of General Seminary, with nicely bound copies of the completed Bible (V 4.1.1893). The Committee refused to permit an introduction explaining the revision which Mr. Pratt wanted to include, but agreed to its separate publication (V 5.26.1893).

The book known as La Version Moderna was an octavo, printed in double column but with poetry passages printed according to the laws of Hebrew poetry, the text had been compared with the Hebrew and Greek texts and with the ERV. The composition and plates had come to \$6,426.25 and paper and printing - \$1,512. Size of the edition, 4,000. The books were listed at 75¢ in cloth, \$1.00 in roan, \$1.25 in roan gilt and \$2.50 in morocco gilt. The cost of the translation itself had come to \$18,074.22 and was charged to the "benevolent" account while the plate cost was figured into the list price of the book (P 2.24.1893).

In 1894 it was suggested that there be included in Spanish Bibles a table of chapter contents as in the English Nonpareil Bibles and mentioned one prepared by Mr. dePalma in 1874 that seemed better than one in a BFBS Madrid edition of 1893. Dr. Gilman pointed out that neither would go with the Version Moderna so he was asked to submit a new one. Suggestions presented in September were approved (V 3.31, 4.28 and 9.29.1894) but no action was taken at the next meeting when the full list of headings and maps were ^{reported} printed (V 3.2.1895).

Some people however were not satisfied with this new Version. The missionary Conference in Mexico in January 1897 felt a careful revision would make it generally acceptable and requested its Executive Committee to select a group of various missionaries in Spanish-speaking countries to form a revision committee. Mr. Pratt asked permission to examine the text before such a Committee should get to work on it (V 2.29 and 3.27.1897). The BFBS refused to take any action in relation to the Moderna. Mr. Pratt soon reported corrections that were being made in a new edition then in the press and presented others he had not been able to enter. Although the Committee had heard nothing officially from the Mexico Conference, it was learned eight persons had already been designated by their missions to serve in revising the Moderna (V 10.30.1897). The following spring plans were officially reported but the relation of Mr. Pratt to the work was not clarified. The Committee awarded him \$25.00 for his work the previous summer on the new edition (V 3.26.1898).

Plates requested for Spain

In 1869 J. G. Butler, of the American and Foreign Christian Union (C 1.4.1869) asked the ABS for a set of plates for the new Spanish Testament for use in Spain for Bibles printed in other countries will not be admitted, at least in any quantity. Their H. C. Hall was sure he could have books printed there, at about half cost, and would make "judicious and effective use of them." There was strong sympathy with America. The Versions Committee deferred action (V1.5) but at the next meeting decided to supply books instead.

XII. Swedish Scriptures

In 1874 the ABS issued a Swedish Bible, without the Apocrypha and also a New Testament, probably reprints of BFBS books. In 1882 a revised New Testament appeared in Stockholm prepared by a Royal Commission, although there continued to be difficulty about agreement on a revision of the Old Testament. This soon came to carry the identification - Normalupplaga. In 1887 there began to be requests that the ABS publish this New Testament, which the BFBS had already been printing (V 2.26 and 10.1.1887). In 1890 the Minnesota Conference of the Scandanavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of the U.S., at its annual meeting, requested the ABS to cease publishing its current edition and publish only the revised New Testament (1882?) with the older Old Testament. In December on recommendation of the Conference of Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North America the Committee recommended that in the future all ABS editions of the New Testament in Swedish be that authorized by the Church in Sweden (V 4.26, 11.29 and 12.27.1890).

Before this action was taken Dr. Gilman had consulted Dr. George E. Day of Yale University, and the American Committee of the ERV, who made the following informative statement (5.7.1890):

I am glad to receive your letter of inquiry in regard to the work of Bible revision in Sweden, for it indicates that the Am. Bible Society does not mean to lose sight of the real progress in this direction in various European countries. On going abroad in 1884 to meet the English O.T. revisers, I took occasion to confer with the scholars engaged in the same general work in Holland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway and have only been waiting for leisure to throw the information obtained from them and from the revisions already issued, with the criticisms to which they have been subjected into some accessible form. . . .

The Swedish Revision, concerning which you inquire, has a remarkable history. It was commenced more than a hundred years since and issued in a bulky small 4to volume but was very properly rejected as being unsatisfactory. Since then it has been folowed by a number of modified revisions, both of the

Old and New Testaments, till finally in 1883 the New Testament was formally accepted by the Swedish Diet and 'authorized' by royal rescript as the accepted version with the limitation that it must not be used in the liturgical service of the church. Like all Revisions it has been severely criticized, especially for its conservative character in regard to its Greek textual readings, which it is claimed do not take sufficient notice of the oldest manuscript authorities. The Old Test. revision is still in progress. The NT. is issued in several forms, both separately and bound with the old version of the OT. . . .

Feeling strongly as I do in regard to the mistakes in the old versions now in common use I am ready to welcome every indication that the Bible Societies in different countries are reasonably ready to recognize the progress which has certainly been within the last two or three centuries in the translation of the Bible.

XIII. Scholarly texts - Hebrew Scriptures

In 1878 the Versions Committee recommended that the ABS should stock copies of Delitzsch's new version of the New Testament and in 1890 recommended approval of the New Testament of Salkinson (V 12.28.1878 and 9.29.1890).

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XIV Bohemian

Early in 1888 the BFBS offered the ABS a set of duplicate plates of a Bible in Bohemian, but the Publication Committee preferred to join in securing plates for a new edition of the New Testament and Psalms, 24mo, in a new bolder and clearer type on the same basis - £ 75.5.5 and for plates for the complete Bible when it should be ready (P 1.25.1888). In a few months the Bible was completed and the BFBS offered a duplicate set of electros at £ 246 (P 5.29.1888). It later developed that there was a charge for proofreading, to be shared with the ABS, but in view of the Arabic plates that the ABS gave the BFBS, it was finally agreed not to charge the ABS for the proofreading (P 12.26.1888). In 1889 it was reported that 4,000 Testaments and Psalms, 24 mo, had been printed from the BFBS plates to list at 10¢ and 12¢ (P 4.24 and 7.24.1889). The plates for the Bible arrived in the fall from Vienna and Bibles were printed the following spring - 60¢ in cloth, 70¢ roan, embossed, and \$1.00 in roan, gilt (P 10.30.1889 and 5.28.1890).

In 1895 when the Chicago Bible Society requested some large Bibles for pulpit and family use, it was ordered that 100 copies of the small pica Bible be printed with wide margins, producing a royal 8vo or small 4to (P 9.25.1895).

These must be from a Bible of 1887 printed for the BFBS in Vienna containing the old Kralitz text, in new orthography, with slight corrections, prepared by a group of pastors under the direction of H. von Tardy and T. Karafiát (DM 2238 and 2239).