## THE

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## The Dual Standard Version in Chinese.*

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坆E providence of God gaiding His charch in China is clearly seen in the schism which occurred in the company of translators a half-century ago. The resalt was not only two versions, but a multitnde of versions, with great variety in interpretation, style, and idiom; each with special excellencies of its own and all casting light upou the sacred page in the languages of the Middle Kingdom. In the last two decades there has been a great advance in the knowledge of Chinese, in the publication of standard dictionaries and student helps, and in special contributions to Biblical research in this langnage; so after the publication of the English revision, the "fullness of the time was come" for the preparation of a standard version in Chinese.

## the acts in wen-li and mandarin.

The poblication of tentative editions of the Acts in both Wên-li and Mandarin, affords an opportunity for discnssing the question of the new versions. The object of the present paper is not to review the work as a whole, or speak of the distinguished sinolognes who are serving the church in this department. Neither is it to describe the accuracy of the translations, the beanty of the idiomatic constructions, and the high degree of literary perfection attained; it is simply to present one phase of the subject, and that is, the necessity of the two translations being one in interpretation, idiom, and terminology.

It is not presented exhanstively, bat simply suggestively; a snfficient number of examples being drawn to illustrate the sulject. Those lines are peoned with the hope of awakeniug Chinese Biblical

[^0]criticism, and that our sister missionary associations will review the other books as they are issued year by year. The discassion may receive well-matured deliberation at the great conference of 1901. To-day the versions are not compared with the original, but the Wen-li and Mandarin are placed side by side, so that their relations to one another can be easily seen. We saggest this line of study to the advanced stadent missionaries as a field which will yield a rich linguistic harvest.

## TWO vet'sus THREE.

It may be asked, Why the Dual Standard Version instead of the "Triple Version" as ordered by the couference of 1890 ? Is not this proposition against the nnited wisdom of the whole missionary body? If it seems so at first sight, it can easily be proved that it is not so in fact. The great question at the second congress was one uniform version, and after papers by Drs. Mnirhead and Wherry, and Bishop Schereschewsky, there were speeches by Mr. Archibald and the lameuted Dr. Wright; then the whole matter was remitted to the great committee of twenty-five. After their agreement apon a version in Easy Wên-li, those who had used the Delegates' strongly advocated the necessity of a version in the higher Wên-li, and this was also embodied in their report, which was adopted most heartily amidst the solemu notes of the Long Metre Doxology.

The question comes up quite differently before the third parliament in 1901. 'The whole field has been cleared of the forty years' coutroversy about the versions. The question will be, Shall we have oue or two Wêu-li Bibles?

1. There is much opposition to two versions in the classic style. "It was a mistake" is the general verdict. In Kiangsn there camot be found five missiouaries engraged actively in preaching, and who have been on the field ten years, who desire the Old and New Testaments in High Wên-li. There is a still smaller percentage in the Mandarin proviuces.
2. The Hongkong company have put ont a version high enongh to satisfy classic taste. Dr. Sheftield, who is on the higher Wên-li Committee, says: "They have followed Dr. Chalmer's new version and have not done what they were expected to do." Certainly the Wên-li revisiou is not in as simple a style as the Blodget and Burdou's version.
3. A decade has passed, and the High Wên-li Committee has not had its first mecting, and as two of the committee are on furlongh, two have issued an independent version, and as one member has the distingaished hour of having passed lis jubilece last year, there is no probability of united action on their part. Would it not be best to
divide the available force of this committee between the "Easy Wens" and "Mandarins" so that the Chinese charch might have the benefit of their sonod knowledge and Biblical scholarship?
4. Ten years have seen a change in the Chinese mind in regard to the high literary style. "It is nseless," the people said last year; and though the sno of Kang Yü-wei and his colleagnes, the reformer's, has suffered a temporary eclipse, yet the radiance of Cathay's star of literature is also beclonded.
5. We note in certain verses of the Easy Wên-li a lack of perspicuity, a want of definiteness of meaning. The revisers say: "The version should be read with the Greek Testiment lying open beside it." We prefer to see what meaning the Chinese scholar gives to the words. If a double construction may sometimes be put upou the Easy Wenn-li, what will the carnest stndent get from the word priated in a highfown literary style? There caunot be adranced a siugle valid reason for two Wêu-li Old Testaments. It is difficalt enough to get our converts to anderstand the psalms and prophets even in the vernacalar.
6. Lest oar views be considered too plebeian we will present the Panline argument, "I came not unto you with excellency of speech or wisdom, declaring uato yon the testimony of God." That settles the question.

## the executive comaittees and aministratice ability.

The question comes before the missionary body, Have the committees appointed by the Conference of 1890 proved their right to the title "Execative?" It will be answered, Have they not chosen companies of able and pious translators? This is conceded. Have they not secared financial help from the Bible Societies? This is true. Bat what else have they done?

They are an able body of men. Rev. T. Bryson acting as an intermediary, there are with him associated on the Easy Wen-li, Drs. Ashmore, Gibson, Corbett, and A. H. Smith ; Rev. Messrs. Stevenson and Fitch, and Archleacon Wolfe. On the Mandarin, Drs. Mateer, Goodrich, Hykes, and Bryson, and Rev. Messrs. Baller and Elwin. Their commission is, "To whom shall be committed the work of securing a translation of the whole Bible." Their orders are, "They shall make all necessary arrangements for the vigorous prosecution of the work." Does not vigorous prosecution meau that they should secure the services of distinguished men who would devote their whole time to translation? "Judging the future by the past," it will yet be thirty years, and one generation of translators passeth away and another cometh, before the Bible in Chiuese is complete.

We also think that the Execotive Committee should arrange that the compauies of translators meet at a central point and not at China＇s poles－Hongkong and Peking．By this latter arrangement， travelling expenses may have been curtailed，but at the expense of uniformity in the versions，as is seen by the alliteration of the Scripture names given below．

Acts vi．10，Stephen ；vii．2，Abraham ；vii．43，Rephan；viii． 12，Philip ；ix．33，Aeneas ；ix．33，Sharon ；ix．36，Tabitha ；xi．36， Christian．［Iu adopting Chi－li－si－tan for＂Christian＂the Mandarin company proved themselves novelists of the first water］；xii．20， Blastus ；xvi．22，Magistrates ；xvii．18，Stoics；xviii．8，Crispms； xix．35，Jupiter ；xxi．1，Patala ；xxiii．24，＂the Governor＂Felix， ＂the Financial Commissioner＂Felix ；xxv．13，Beruice；xxvi．25， Most Noble Festas．

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## ONE BIBLE．

＂In order to secnre one Bible in three versions＂the General Conference（in paragraph 5 of the three Biblical Reports）thrice iustructs the Executive Committees＂to enjoin upon the traushators that in settling upon the text and in all questions of interpretation （italics ours）they act in coujunction with the committee on－ and－revision，and for these parposes they coustitute one Com－ mittee．＂In couversation with an acting member of the High Wêu－li Committee，he was asked，＂Have you talked with＿abunt nuifying the versions？What does he propose to do ？＂One of the Easy Wêu－li company remarked，＂We hope to complete our work by 1900 and lay it before the General Missionary Conference．＂A translator of the Mandarin says：＂When onr revisions are completed the three committees will meet together，settle upon differences in the text and the terms that should be ased，bat they have nothing to do with the language or the style．＂Another member of the Man－ darin committee when asked why he did not work in conjunction with the Wen－li committee，replied，＂We are appointed to revise
the Mandarin；it would be the height of assamption for us to presume to suggest such a course，＂and so the work is brought to perfection on different lines as is illustrated by the＂additiou and subtraction＂of words frepuently rendered necessary by the in－ defiuiteness of the persomal prononus in Chinese．

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僻隅堛背地楮

In the Chinese Recorder（October，1898），President Chauncey Goodrich says：＂The time for the anifying of the versions has not yet come．That work must be done by the special committee of three created by the conference for this very purpose，a committee already chosen，and consisting of one member chosen from each of the Revision Committees．The committee will commence its work as soon as any portion of the New Testament is printed in all of the three versions ．．．The work of the sub－committee of three mast of course be referred back to the three committees，which must have meetiugs together，＂

This practical difficulty was not considered in 1890 when＂the final result was one of euthnsiastic harmouy and glad thanksgiving．＂ It seems to us that Dr．Goodrich＇s theory is utopian．Three com－ panies，after heroic labors，have finished three Bibles；will they be willing to make radical changes？In the discossions of trans－ planting Greek or a Hebrew root into Chinese soil，where will the ＂growing numbers＂of the discussions of fifteen learned men end $P$ It is much easier to change when both mind and metal are in a liquid state．Our call is，let unification precede crystallization．

For example，it is very desirable that the stractare of the seutences be as far as possible the same，so that when the Mandarin is read alond in the pulpit，it may be easy to follow with the Wen－ li in haud．If there are divergencies of this kind in a historical book，as is seen by the quotations from the Acts，what will it be in the involved sentences of Paul＇s theological epistles？

HX図泉皆霂於聖神始講諸方言按神所睗其言者堛
話氷 1 十龱而衆弗克抵無其有智與神之言焉圆
当汶図日亦以此嫩予我使我手所按者受聖神堛䛃
 1－极卅節字句多少有異

## THE HARMONY OF WORDS.

Again, the language of the Dual Standard Version should, as far as is consistent with the written Wêu-li and spoken Mandarin, be one and the same. The necessity for the same words in the thousand sacred terms ased in Holy Writ, was not mentioned in 1890, but will be discnssed by the thousund missionaries convened in 1901. (1.) The truth of God is giveu in the vehicle of human speech. Let the words be fitly chosen. In Galatians iii. 16 the apostle says: "Not seeds but seed," basing his argument upon the singalar. (2.) The spiritual power of King James' version consists in the fact that its phraseology is known to the people of Englishspeaking lands, so that a quotation in the pulpit awakens the most sacred emotions of the heart. Herein is the failare of the Victorian revision to find general acceptance in the churches; the revisers in many places unnecessarily changed the words. (3.) The local vernaculars throughout the Land of Sinim, must be brought into accord with the nuited Wên-li and Mandarin (for in many points the structure of the language is the same, so that the learued and the anlearned may alike know the mind and words of Jesus. (4.) A revision based on another theory will not last twenty years. The cry will be, Harmonize the two versions.

The examples here given will show how easy it will be for the two companies of revisers to come to some mutnal agreement if they adopt as their motto: "One Lord, one faith, oue baptism, one Bible."

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## WHAT IS TRUTH?

We come now to the most serious featare of the new system of revision, to wit, the totally different renderings. From the constitntion of the committees as they were when the book of Acts was translated,* we would expect divergency, and alas! we find it. Fonr venerable Wên-li scholars are from the Kwangtang province, while an equal number of the Mandarin Committee hail from Chih-li and Shantang. These men speak different languages, have associated with nationals belonging to almost distinct races, and the literary style of the extreme North and Soath China is, in a slight degree, diverse. The two members of the Wêu-li and Mandarin companies from the Mission to which the writer belongs-and "Is it not a little one?" among " the smallest of the tribes of Israel"form the binding link between the metropolitan section and the tropical provinces. The few examples given from the lives of Peter and Paul prove that the present system of translation, if pursued through the sixty-six books, will give as a "Thus saith the Lord" in manifold form, and end in inextricable confusion. Many of the differences arise from the ase of different texts.

## TWO TRANSLATIONS.

Acts 1. 13. Wên-li. Entered. Mandarin. Entered the city.
1.17. W. This office. M. The diaconate.

1. W. 24. M. 25. Verses not divided the same.
2. 25. W. Left. M. Cast away.
1. 26. W. Cast the ballot. M. Used the divining rods.
1. 12. W. Amazed. M. Amazed and in doubt.
2.15. W. This man. M. These men.
1. 18. W. I will fix my spirit. M. I will poar my spirit.
1. 24. W. Arising. M. Resurrection.
1. 29. W. Brethren. M. All you brethren.
1. 39. W. Descendants. M. Children.
1. 40. W. Vicions. M. Perverse.
1. 19. W. Times of peace. M. Times of revival.
1. 25. W. Raised up his servant. M. Appointed his son.
1. 25. W. Raged. M. Fonght.
1. 30. W. Holy Servant. M. Holy Son.
1. 33. W. Hearts torn. M. Luugs scalded.
1. 2. W. The Hellenistic Jews abused the Hebrews. M. The Jews who spoke Greek marmared against the Hebrews.
6.11. W. They bribed men to say, I, etc. M. They sent forth men to falsely implicate him saying, We, etc.

[^1]7. 10. W. Over the Imperial clansmen. M. Over all the miuisters of Pharaoh's family.
7.26. W. To-morrow he saw brothers fighting. M. The next day there were two men fighting.
7.26. W. To obtain a dwelling place. M. To prepare a dwelling place.
8. 7. W. Unclean gods or spirits. M. Wicked devils.
[These translations pash the "term controversy" to an extreme.]
8. 12. W. Believed Philip preaching. M. They believed Philip preaching.
9. 2. W. If they should meet with those who follow this way. M. If they should seek for those believing this doctrine.
9. 26. W. He attempted to adhere to the disciples. M. He wished to be the disciples' friend.
10. 34. W. Now I know that God. M. Now I see that God.
12. 6. W. This night. M. Last night.
12.13. W. A woman. M. A maid servant.
12.19. W. Demanded and could not get him. M. Sought and could not find him.
12.21. W. Put on the Imperial robe. M. Put on the conrt dress.
13. 1. W. Begotten of same parents. M. Adopted brother.
13.10. W. Greatly confused. M. Turned around.
13. 25. W. I am not that man. M. I am not the Christ.
13.26. W. Already sent to you. M. Is preached to you.
13.27. W. Ye do not understand the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, so have condemned him. M. Do not nuderstand the books of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, and have pronounced the death penalty.
14.19. W. Exhorted the people. M. Stir ap the people.
15. 28. W. Not to place a burden exceeding this. M. Not to place another burden.
16. 29. W. Called for a light. M. Took a light.
16.30. W. Venerable Sir. M. (two) Sirs.
16.35. W. Release this man. M. Release these two men.
17. 6. W. 'Turued upside down. M. Excite a disturbance.
17.30. W. The ignorance of those who go. M. The ignorance of mankiud.
18. 12. W. Led. M. Dragged.
18.17. W. Exhorted. M. Approved.
20.13. W. Travelling on foot. M. Travelling by land.
20.35. W. I've shown you a plan. M. I've set you an example.
21.19. W. Use me as a minister. M. Use him to preach.
22.12 . W. Wituessed. M. Mraised.

23．25．W．Wrote a letter．M．Wrote an official despatch．
23．33．W．Delivered the letter to the governor．M．Delivered the letter to the Fiuancial Commissioner．
25．6．W．The governor dwelt there．M．Felix dwelt at their place．
26．10．W．I also said this ought to be so．M．I also affixed my name to the penalty．
27．7．W．（facing）West－south and west－north．M．Facing east－south and east－north．
27．27．W． 20 chen $=160$ feet．M． 12 chang $=120$ feet．
27．27．W． 15 chen $=120$ feet．M． 9 chang $=90$ feet．
28．2．W．Barbarians．M．Natives．
28．21．W All spoke to him，saying．M．They said to Paul．
28．27．W．The heart closed（withont thought）．M．The heart stupid．


 $\|$ I！図注於我僕㮩堛焼灌我的僕入和我的使女

安舒諸期面復興的日子 妀图朁挻起其僕園設立了他的兒子 X林图號怒園争開 X卅聖僕面聖子 $\quad$ 仨图心坼堛阨氟炸 1 リ図希利尼之
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 I二 1 図是夜堛前一夜 $\quad 1$ I三图有女面有一个使女 に汶図索之不獲堛找他找不着 に川图衣王服堛穿上朝服 1 に川图面諭之園講論一番 ミ1図
我非其人也图我不是基督 三II図已㟟至畋是㯖給 1 II1図亦不䪟先知之聲即每安息日所頒者故定擖之園不明白安息日所誩兼先知的書就把定了死
以他任加雨過於此必然者也图不把別的重擔抯在你


It is quite evident had the committees worked together，these discrepancies might have been avoided．That the Wêu－li and Maudarin can be one in structure and terminology，may be seen in the elegaut dual－versions of Dr．Griffith John－shall the scholars elect fall below this model？

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" UNITED WE STAND."
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The advantages of a three years＇session of the two companies in some chosen city，are many．1．There may be a division of labor in the first draft of the revision－one company taking Genesis and the other Exodus－thas expediting the gigantic undertaking． 2. It lessens the oue man power．A member may have a＂hobby＂－ a philological discovery－and be able by persuasive eloquence to obtain the tacit approval of his colleagnes．This wonld be impos－ sible with two committees working in harmony．3．There is great gain by consultation during social hours，or on the afternoon walks． 4．Every paragraph of the poetical books will require frequent interviews to settle the exact shade of interpretation of the sacred songs of the church，and this will necessitate sessions of the com－ mittees at the same time aud place．5．So stupendons are the issues in translation it is much saler to have the＂two houses，＂and when the versions meet the approval of both＂upper＂and＂the lower，＂the church of God in China may feel quite safe in accepting the result．

We are entering upon a great Scriptural era．＇I＇en years ago the three great Bible Societies together distributed two－thirds of a million Bibles and portions of the Bible．Last year one of the three sold one million portions．The decade has seen the missionary body double in uumbers．It is probable that in thirty years there will be ten thousand ordained missionaries preaching in Sinim．Let them take their texts from the Dual Standard Version made after the patteru which was showed in the Mount．


[^0]:    * Read before the Soochow Literary and Missionary Association, October 5.

[^1]:    * Since then Rev. F. W. Baller has been added.

