

what does this newly found Syriac manuscript differ from the Peshito?

It is further known that a Syrian bishop, Philoxenus, in the 6th century translated the New Testament into Syriac. This version was revised by his successor. Another Syriac version is thought to belong to the 5th or 7th century. It is known as the Jerusalem version.

The main importance of these and all other ancient versions and manuscripts of the sacred writings is in the evidence they furnish of the identity in essential points of our Bible with that of the earliest Church. But this is pretty well established. It is not denied that Biblical texts in the past ages, occasionally were modified to suit the changes that took place in theological conceptions, but critics have succeeded marvellously in restoring the text to nearly its original purity. The discovery of new manuscripts may possibly reveal readings which, if genuine, will shatter the accepted notions of modern orthodoxy, but even if the original writings of the Apostles and Evangelists were discovered, they would not contradict anything in the Bible as we have it today, which is undoubtedly genuine. Modern theology, however, is not always built on the Scriptures but on inferences from the Scriptures. These inferences may be in danger from new discoveries; the sacred records themselves are safe.

MORE BLOODSHED IN CHINA.

Another massacre is reported from China. A mission station at Nan Ching is said to have been destroyed and a number of converts killed; and notwithstanding the appeals to the local authorities by the consuls, the disturbances continue. It is hardly possible, on comparing the pacifying statements by the diplomatic representatives at Peking with actual occurrences, to silence the suspicion that those diplomats are using as much energy in behalf of the Chinese government as of the countries they represent; they seem to aim at quieting the excitement the massacres have caused in the Christian world rather than to compel efficient measures of protection, and the consequence is that no sooner has one message come stating that everything has been satisfactorily arranged, than another is flashed across the oceans that more blood has been shed.

The fact is that the Chinese population, though nominally slaves to the most arbitrary despotism, are not and cannot be, in a matter of this kind, restrained by imperial edicts from following the dictates of their own propensities, planted in and nourished by traditions and superstitions as old as history. The masses of the people labor under the idea that the ruler at Peking is a monarch to whom all the world pays homage, and that, consequently, China is the real "hub of the universe." Undoubtedly the idea is prevalent in that country that the Chinese emperor commanded his Russian or English vassals to stop the Japanese army on its march to Peking, and that all the powers stand ready to obey him. As long as such delusions are fostered by

the Chinese government—as has been the case in the recent past—no foreign representatives can make any impression on the people through diplomatic negotiations. They are more or less farcical and ineffective.

The only remedy is in humiliating the authorities in China in the eyes of the nation, to such an extent that the lowliest Chinaman can be misled no further as to the power of the "foreign dogs" to protect their people and their interests in that country. How that can be done effectually is the question. England is not likely to be very sincere in her proceedings in behalf of a few missionaries, whose blood has been shed only in the cause of civilization, as long as there is an opium trade to protect, which yields her millions in profit. And it may be questioned whether any other European country would feel justified in taking China in hand. Japan might have done it, had not Russia interfered.

It seems impossible, though, that the world should much longer tolerate the spirit that is manifest both in eastern and western Asia. Countries entrusted with the light of civilization have responsibilities as well as privileges, and one of the duties is to spread that light, until its rays shall encompass the whole human family. As for China, either a war or rebellion must come, that the existing order of things may be overturned and a new era inaugurated. The country must be given a responsible government and the people in some way be placed in a position of members of the family of nations. The interests of the world would seem to demand some such arrangement before long.

PREPARING PRUNES FOR MARKET.

The raising of prunes has been successfully tried in many sections of this Territory, and the industry is one that promises to be so remunerative as to suggest its prosecution on a more extensive scale. But in order that the best results may be obtained, it is necessary that correct methods in the handling, sorting and curing of the fruit be employed, thus correcting an error and a neglect which in the past has militated to an incalculable degree against the product of the Utah orchardist. It is hardly necessary to say that French prunes have a reputation exceeding all others; and with a view to giving local producers the process by which growers in that country prepare their fruit for exportation, we quote from a writer in the Boston Herald:

As soon as the prunes are harvested they are taken to a building called the *tritery*, where they remain a few days to complete maturity. The fruit is then subjected to not less than three, and frequently four, distinct cookings before being pronounced fit for the market. The first two preliminary cookings have for object evaporation of water contained in the fruit; the final cooking, which dries the fruit, imparts a certain brilliancy much sought by buyers. You know that rich gloss? The sun dried prunes are most delicious to the taste, but the exigencies of the trade do not permit of such long preparation. In several districts of France the most primitive means are practiced in curing the fruit. In Provence it is plunged in pots of boiling water, then placed in baskets and

gently shaken until cool, when it is put upon long trays exposed to the sun's heat to complete the desiccation. At Digne the prunes are not gathered until ripe. Women feel the fruit with their nails to avoid injury to the soft pulp. The fruit is strung on small twigs in such fashion as not to touch. These sticks of prunes are stuck into straw frames, which are suspended in the sun until the prunes easily detach from the stick; the pit is then removed and the same process of sun drying is gone through with, and, when thoroughly desiccated, packed for market. The trays used in the rural districts are quaint affairs, varying in form, dimensions and construction, according to locality. The peasants make them during the winter months, and they are clumsy and cumbersome, and the only excuse is the peasant cannot afford to buy and is not skilful enough to make better ones. Perhaps some day a little Yankee skill may enter into this primitive construction, which is now a frame made of hoop, to which is fastened a wicker-like bottom fashioned from rushes and willow twigs. At least this is the method of preparing prunes in France. The California fruit growers may have a better.

STAND TO YOUR GUNS.

No great success in this world ever came to any man who was a quitter. The winners are the ones who have the pluck and perseverance. Obstacles may arise in the path, and may appear to multiply as the path progresses; but each one conquered or brushed aside leaves one less to meet ahead. Indeed it almost invariably happens that courage and manhood in meeting the first ones causes the others to flee frightened away; the ordinary obstacle seems only to want to know what kind of a character it is to confront—if this be brave and sturdy there is a shrinkage on the part of the opposing elements. If not their melting completely into thin air. Nor will it do to think the struggle must be abandoned because all its difficulties were unforeseen or because some of them are unworthy and unjust. The would-be victor must be prepared for every untoward event—it is the unexpected that happens. Treachery and deceit are foes hard to meet, but they may not be left out of any calculation where a fight is on hand. Sometimes they achieve a temporary advantage, but if he who encounters them goes down bravely, he still wins morally, and has materially increased his stock of friends.

To most of us, life is a battle from the cradle to the grave. Disease and temptation are the common lot of mankind. But there are countless other trials that beset us as individuals, and no man's experience is exactly like that of any other. Faintness of heart, weakness of purpose, uncertain courage both moral and physical—these are the greatest enemies of the human race. Against any of them a clear conscience is the best armor; while for weapons there is nothing to equal hope, firmness and justice. If to the valiant use of these be added stoutness in conviction and perseverance in every proper line of action, the struggle is a series of conquests. Vacillation has wrought the ruin of many a deserving cause and champion; promptitude has won many a victory for an unpopular man and movement. The