

useful translations each of which had its own particular virtues. First, the committee could agree on what the original writer meant to say; then they could select from the various translations the word or phrase that best expressed it. A process of 80 years of intensive work on getting the Bible into the language of their day had prepared the way for the production of one of the greatest masterpieces of Biblical and literary history that the world has ever seen.

In recent years the excellence of the King James Version has held men back from trying to find ways to express the ideas of the original in the English language as it is spoken in the Twentieth Century. A number of efforts to translate the New Testament have appeared, but there are very few recent translations of the Old Testament.

The occasion of the present discussion is the appearance of the Berkeley Version in Modern English, of the entire Bible, edited by Dr. Gerrit Verkuyl of Berkeley, California. Dr. Verkuyl had already published his own translation of the New Testament in 1945. In the subsequent years he invited various men to prepare translations of the books of the Old Testament, for him to edit and publish, along with his own translation of the New Testament. Thus the book before us is partly fourteen years old, and partly a new publication.

If one expects to find in the Berkeley Version a translation into the English of our day that can compare with the position attained by the King James Version for the English of its day, he is bound to be disappointed. The Berkeley Version has been preceded by no such number of excellent translations into the