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New Testament tend to follow these few manuscripts and to indicate the additions that occur in later manuscripts in footnotes.

The Nestle text of the Greek New Testament is very widely used and is probably the most accurate Greek text that has yet been presented. In its footnotes it gives such important variations as have not been included in its text. Dr. Souter's edition of the Greek New Testament has a text that is usually considered inferior to the Nestle text but his footnotes give a fuller presentation of the manuscript evidence.

I would like to stress the fact that although there are variants in the readings of our Bible manuscripts most of these are extremely minor, and none of them affect any vital doctrine.

In many cases the translators of the Revised Standard Version followed a reading that occurred in an ancient Greek or Syriac or other translation of the Old Testament in preference to the Hebrew. In most of these cases I feel that they were mistaken. As a rule, but not always, they state the reading of the Hebrew manuscripts in a footnote. Sometimes, unfortunately, they do this in a way that gives a false impression of what the Hebrew actually says.

Although it is not directly on the subject of your letter, you might be interested in a leaflet that I prepared on some of the variant readings in the R.S.V., and their relation to the original Hebrew, so I will enclose a copy of this leaflet.

I hope that the above will answer the questions you have in mind. If further questions occur to you, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Allan A. MacRae

AAM:gsn

Encl.