

of the American Oriental Society
 Speaking of a recent meeting ~~at~~ at the University of Chicago, the
 issue of
 /TIME magazine for April 28, 1941, says: "The saying 'meek as Moses' rests almost
 entirely upon one bad slip in the King James Bible Numbers 12:3: 'Now the man
 Moses was very meek ...' The correct translation of the original Hebrew is
 'vexed!...'"

To any one familiar with the facts, it is evident that the "one bad
 slip" which has been made is not on the part of the King James Bible but either
 of ~~the~~ ^{the ear of} TIME's reporter or of the un-named speaker at the meeting at the University
 of Chicago. The Hebrew word translated "meek" in Numbers 12:3, is the same word
 which is used many times elsewhere in the O.T. and translated in this way. It
 was translated by a Greek word which means meek or gentle in the Septuagint version
 as early as 200 B.C. Commentaries written long before the ~~issuance~~ ^{version of the}
 of the King James/Bible discuss the term in this passage under the meanings of
 meek, ~~or~~ gentle, or humble. It is interesting that the modernist translation of the
 Old T. ^{published} by the U. of Chi. in 1927 translates the word as "modest"! It
 is clear that the translation/^{then,} was by no means a "slip" on the part of the King
 James Bible, but is an understanding of this Hebrew word which has been prevalent
 at least since 200 B.C. and which was still accepted by the members of the faculty
 of the U. of Chi. as late as 1927.

In the context, the rendering "meek" fits perfectly, while the guess
 "vexed" which has now been suggested does not fit at all. The incident tells us
 how Miriam and Aaron were murmuring against Moses and boasting about their own
 prowess, but that Moses did not do anything about it himself. The Lord spoke
 suddenly to the three of them, and called them out, and there rebuked the others
 for their boasting against Moses. Professor ^{Selitzsch} (Gaylich) says in his commentary
 on p. 77, "This remark as to the character of Moses serves to bring out to view
 the position of the person attacked, and points

"Because he was the meekest of all men, he could calmly leave ~~the~~ ^{this} attack
 upon himself to the all-wise and righteous judge who had both called and
 qualified him for his office."