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A table of contents for *Journal of Biblical Literature* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_jbl-01.php

The Syriac Manuscript of the Union Theological Seminary of New York.

PROF. ISAAC H. HALL, PH.D.

THIS MS. was obtained from the neighborhood of Mardîn, in Mesopotamia, by the Rev. Alpheus N. Andrus, and by him presented to the Union Theological Seminary in March, 1872. It consists, in its present shape, of 146 leaves of rather thick parchment, one of them a mere fragment, but each entire leaf being $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in dimension. The present binding, very dilapidated, of which only fragments of the back and one (wooden board) side remain, is pretty certainly three centuries old. The middle portions of the MS. are in fair preservation, but toward each end many leaves are more or less decayed, discolored, and obscured by the action of water and dirt. Very few portions of it, however, present any serious difficulty in deciphering, though some of them require a little close and slow work.

The sheets are arranged in *quiniones*, or quires of five folios or ten leaves each. The writing is in two columns to the page, each column regularly $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and the space between the columns about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch wide. All these measurements vary somewhat, but the size of the written page is generally $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The number of lines in a column is usually 24, but it varies from 21 to 26.

At present, the first three quires are gone; the MS. now beginning with a fragment of the first leaf of *quinio* 4, in Matt. xx. 22. This fragment, however, contains only portions of Matt. xx. 22, 23; xxi. 4-7. The real beginning is with Fol. 2, at Matt. xxi. 10. No gap then occurs till we pass Fol. 99, after which two leaves are missing, one the last leaf of *quinio* 13, and the other the first leaf of *quinio* 14, causing the loss of Luke xxxiii. 21 to xxxiv. 9 (latter part of the verse). Of these two missing leaves, the first has doubtless been *cut away since the MS. came to America*; the other was apparently lost by the natural wearing through of the outer folio of the *quinio*. The next break occurs in the last quire now present of the MS., the seventh and eighth

leaves of the *quinio* being gone, carrying away John xxi. 17 (latter part of the verse) to the end of the Gospel, and of the Epistle of James from its beginning to ii. 2 (first part of the verse). The present end of the MS. is in James ii. 26, first four words of the verse; to which a later hand has added the rest of the verse, occupying four lines in the lower margin. This later hand undoubtedly belongs to the same period as the present binding, or about three centuries ago. The addition seems to have been made merely to give a clean end to the already mutilated MS.

The MS. thus contained originally the four Gospels and the Epistle of James, and probably all of the Catholic Epistles used by the Syrians (James, 1 Peter, 1 John). If it contained no more than that (a supposition favored by the general make and size of the volume), the codex would have been complete with one more *quinio*; and would have contained originally 19 *quiniones*, or 190 leaves, or 380 pages.

The writing is in the old Jacobite character, of a style which seems to be of the twelfth century. (Mr. Andrus, the giver of the MS. to the Seminary, considered it to be about 800 years old; but he seems to me to put it a century too early.) It is much later than the Beirût MS., which belongs to the same general style or class of writing; for it intermingles much later forms of the letters, besides being written throughout in a later style. Rarely, except in lesson-numbers, a letter occurs in Estrangela. One line, at the bottom of a column (three words of Luke xxii. 29, Fol. 98, *b.* 2), is written entirely in the Estrangela.

Punctuation is used with the usual significance and insignificance of Syriac MSS.; the end of a line or the beginning of a church-lesson note being often considered a sufficient indication of punctuation without any further marks. Often, the upper dot of a *rish*, the lower dot of a *dolath*, the point which denotes the feminine suffix, pronoun, and the like, are made to do extra duty as a punctuation mark; being in such cases pushed forward from their normal positions — either to serve the purpose of a single punctuation dot, or part of a double one. In the case of final *nun*, a single dot so often coalesces with its heavy end in such ways that it is impossible to tell exactly what punctuation is intended. The red diamond with a black centre occurs frequently, marking rhetorical significance, or some ecclesiastical or reference division, rather than any syntactical force. Where the diamond of four dots (two vertical red, two horizontal black) is used at the end of a line, the next line often has a red dot at the be-

ginning. The *verso* of each leaf, as in many Syriac MSS., is marked with a diamond of black dots in the upper outer corner.

Abbreviations are rare, except in the church-lesson notes, in which they are the rule. Otherwise, they are confined almost entirely to the words for "glory," with its derivatives, and to that for "disciples." Vowels of the Greek sort are not rare throughout the MS. Some of these are of the first hand; others were apparently added by some late reader to guide his voice.

Grammatical diacritic punctuation is frequent enough to keep the sense generally clear. Vocalization by points is neither rare nor very common. In some portions of the MS. are to be seen specimens of the peculiar compound vowelizing noted in Wiseman's *Horæ Syriacæ*, pages 191-193; which also occurs rarely in the Peshitto portion of the Beirût MS.

The writing is generally done with considerable care and accuracy. Wherever words or letters have been omitted, or other slips made, the correction has been made generally by the original scribe or a contemporary hand, either above or below the line, or in the margin, with a proper reference mark (usually a small diamond of black dots).

Ornaments scarcely occur at all. The only thing of the sort is the diamond, composed of dot-diamonds, which surrounds the *quinio*-number at the beginning and end of each quire; besides here and there some dot-diamonds to fill out a line, and a few ornamental tails to letters — likewise attached for the purpose of filling a short blank at the end of a line.

The writing is continuous, without any break from the beginning to the end of a book. The (Jacobite) church-lessons are noted in vermilion letters (with the diacritic points in black), in the body of the text; these rubrics being much abbreviated. The numbers of these lessons, as they now appear, though written in Estrangela, are in a different ink and a much later hand than the rest of the MS.; and in many places there are evidences in them not only of a re-writing, but of an erasure before re-writing. In a few places the older number is still legible; but whether its writing is contemporary with the first scribe cannot now be determined.

The MS. was doubtless originally provided with the Syriac section (ܩܝܢܝܘܢ) numbers, written mostly in red. But of these numbers only the following now remain: In Matthew, 17, 19, 20, 22; in Mark, 1 (written in black), 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12; in Luke, 2, 6 (written in black), 11, 22 (written erroneously 25 or 26, it being uncertain whether an Estrangela *he* or *waw* has accidentally replaced the re-

quired *betli*) ; in John, 12. These numbers are generally, but not always, written exactly at the beginning of the section to which they belong ; but they always mark the page or column on which the division occurs.

The titles and subscriptions to the Gospels are very simple in form. The following is a translation of those that are still present : —

Subscription to Matthew : " Ends the Gospel of Matthew the Apostle, which he spoke in Hebrew in Palestine."

Title to Mark : " Holy Gospel, the preaching of Mark the Evangelist."

Subscription to Mark : " End of the preaching of Mark, which he spoke in Latin in Rome."

Title to Luke : " Holy Gospel, the preaching of Luke the Evangelist."

Subscription to Luke : " Ends the Holy Gospel, the preaching of Luke, which he spoke in Greek in Alexandria the Great."

Title to John : " Holy Gospel, the preaching of John the Apostle."

Besides the titles and subscriptions, it seems best to give the church-lesson notes in full. Technical students will find it of value. The numbers are given as they occur in the MS. ; in which the reader will perceive some continued mistakes. Generally, the numbers are those of a late hand ; but the few instances in which they are (still) legible in an older hand are marked with a *. Sometimes, but very rarely, the older and the later hands are both legible. In a few instances there is an illegible spot. Such are denoted either by . . . or by a conjectural supply of the deficiency in brackets.

List of Church-Lessons.

| NO. | PASSAGE. | LESSON. |
|-----|----------------|---|
| 51. | Matt. xxi. 23. | Of Tuesday of [Passion] week, at vespers; and 13th of Resurrection. ¹ |
| 52. | " xxi. 33. | Of Stephen, at vespers; and of the martyrs, at vespers. |
| 53. | " xxii. 1. | Of the fifth Sunday of Epiphany; and Monday of Passion week. |
| 54. | " xxii. 15. | Of Passion Monday, at midday. |
| 55. | " xxii. 23. | Of the Saturday of Rest, at matins; and of the departed, at vespers. |
| 55. | " xxii. 34. | Of Passion Tuesday, at matins. |
| 57. | " xxiii. 1. | Of Passion Monday, at matins. |
| 58. | " xxiii. 25. | And Monday of Passion week, at the third hour; and of the martyrs, at the oblation. |
| 59. | " xxiv. 1. | At vespers of the Feast of the Cross; . . . of the Resurrection, at matins. |

¹ That is, 13th Sunday; 12th Sunday after Easter. Where a number occurs without the name of the day, it stands for a Sunday.

| NO. | PASSAGE. | LESSON. |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| 60. | Matt. xxiv. 34. | Of the Supplication. |
| 61. | " xxiv. 41. | Of the Priests, at vespers. |
| 62. | " xxv. 1. | Approach to the gate (<i>ܘܨܘܦܘܢܐ ܕܥܘܠܡܐ</i>). ¹ |
| 63. | " xxv. 13. | Of Bishops and Priests, at the oblation. |
| 64. | " xxv. 31. | Of Friday of Confessors, at matins; and of the vigils of the brethren, at vespers. |
| 65. | " xxvi. 6. | Of Thursday of the Mysteries, at vespers. |
| 66. | " xxvi. 17. | Of Thursday of the Mysteries, at matins. |
| 67. | " xxvi. 31. | Of the great season of the night of the Crucifixion. |
| 68. | " xxvi. 46. | Of the third ministrations of the night of the Crucifixion. |
| 69. | " xxvi. 59. | Of the . . . ministrations of the night of the Crucifixion. |
| 70. | " xxvii. 1. | Of matins of the Friday of the Crucifixion. |
| 71. | " xxvii. 27. | Of the third hour of the Crucifixion. |
| 72. | " xxvii. 57. | Of the Saturday of Annunciation, at vespers. |
| 73. | " xxvii. 63. | Of the Saturday of Annunciation, at matins. |
| 74. | " xxviii. 1. | Of the second Sunday of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 75. | " xxviii. 11. | Of the second of Rest, at matins. |
| 76. | " xxviii. 16. | Of the Ascension, at the oblation. |
| 1.* | Mark i. 1. | Of the Season of the Epiphany, at vespers. |
| 2. | " i. 14. | Of the second Sunday after Epiphany, at matins. |
| 3.* | " i. 32. | Of the second Sunday of Lent, at vespers. |
| 4.* | " ii. 1. | Of the third Sunday of Lent, at vespers. |
| 5. | " ii. 23. | Of the fourth Saturday of Lent. |
| 6. | " iii. 13. | Of the Mother of God (<i>Deipara</i>), at vespers. |
| 7. | " iv. 1. | Of the sixth Sunday after Epiphany, at matins. |
| 8. | " iv. 35. | Of the third Sunday of Lent, at matins. |
| 9. | " v. 21. | Of the fourteenth Sunday, at vespers. |
| 10. | " vi. 14. | Of John the Baptist, at vespers. |
| 11. | " vi. 34. | Of the oblation, of any day. |
| 12. | " vii. 17. | Of the eleventh of Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 13. | " viii. 1. | Of the oblation, of any day. |
| 14. | " viii. 11. | Of the Tuesday of Rest, at vespers. |
| 15. | " viii. 28. | Of the Dedication of a church, at the oblation. |
| 16. | " viii. 34. | Of the Resurrection, at vespers; and of the Prophets, at matins; and of the Tabernacles. |
| 17. | " ix. 9. | Of the Saturday of Rest, at vespers. |
| 18. | " ix. 30. | Of the tenth Sunday of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 19. | " ix. 42. | Of the twenty-fourth of the Resurrection, at vespers; and of the Supplications. |
| 20. | " x. 1. | Of the nineteenth of the Resurrection, at matins. |

¹ In explaining this term, Castel's Lexicon makes a very gross mistake in citing J. S. Assemani, under the word *ܘܨܘܦܘܢܐ*, p. 237. For Castel's (or Michaelis's) "usque ad hanc dominicam," read "usque ad hoc tempus appellatur Syris." This feast was one day only. To explain the matter fully would take too much space here.

| NO. | PASSAGE. | LESSON. |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 22. | Luke vii. 36. | Of the Thursday night of the mysteries, of the second time. |
| 23. | “ viii. 1. | Of the twenty-second of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 24. | “ viii. 40. | Of the fifth Sunday of Lent, at matins. |
| 25. | “ ix. 1. | Of John the Baptist, at the oblation. |
| 26. | “ ix. 11. | Of the oblation, of any day. |
| 27. | “ ix. 27. | Of the Feast of Tabernacles, at matins. |
| 28. | “ ix. 51. | Of the sixth Sunday of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 29. | “ x. 17. | Of the thirty-third of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 40. | “ x. 25. | Of the sixth Sunday of Lent, at vespers. |
| 41. | “ xi. 1. | Of the sixth Sunday of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 42. | “ xi. 23. | Of the Mother of God (<i>Deipara</i>), at matins. |
| 43. | “ xi. 37. | Of the eighteenth of Resurrection, at matins. |
| 44. | “ xi. 52. | Of the twenty-third of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 45. | “ xii. 16. | Of the twenty-seventh of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 46. | “ xii. 31. | Of the Passion, at the third hour; and twenty-sixth of the Resurrection; and of the Saints, at vespers. |
| 47. | “ xii. 49. | Of the twenty-third of the Resurrection, at matins; and of the Supplications. |
| 48. | “ xiii. 1. | Of the twenty-first of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 49. | “ xiii. 10. | Of the twenty-fifth of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 50. | “ xiii. 18. | Of the night of Wednesday of Passion week, at the first ministration. |
| 51. | “ xiii. 31. | Of Passion Tuesday, at the ninth hour. |
| 52. | “ xiv. 7. | Of the twelfth of the Resurrection, at matins; and of the thirtieth of Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 53. | “ xiv. 25. | Of the twenty-first of the Resurrection, at matins; and of the tonsure of monks. |
| 54. | “ xv. 1. | Of the fourteenth of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 55. | “ xv. 11. | Of the Wednesday of Rest, at matins; and twenty-seventh of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 56. | “ xv. 33. | Of the Thursday of Rest, at vespers. |
| 57. | “ xvi. 19. | Of the thirty-first of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 58. | “ xvii. 5. | Of the sixteenth Sunday of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 59. | “ xvii. 10. | Of the second Sunday of Lent, at the oblation. |
| 60. | “ xvii. 20. | Of the night of Passion Tuesday, at the third ministration, at vespers. |
| 61. | “ xviii. 1. | Of Passion Thursday, at matins. |
| 62. | “ xviii. 35. | Of the sixth Sunday of Lent, at the oblation. |
| 63. | “ xix. 1. | Of the eleventh of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 64. | “ xix. 11. | Of the Priests; and twenty-fourth of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 65. | “ xix. 28. | Of the Hosanna, in the night. |
| 66. | “ xix. 47. | Of Passion Monday, at vespers. |

corrected by erasing the upper end of the *lomad*, so as to make it read *'ee*. But after 29 the error is suffered to remain uncorrected; and what should be 30-68 are written 40-78.

| NO. | PASSAGE. | LESSON. |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 67. | Luke xx. 9. | Of the night of Passion Monday, at the second ministration. |
| 68. | " xxi. 5. | Of the night of Passion Tuesday, at the second ministration; and of the Feast of the Cross, at the oblation. |
| 69. | " xxi. 25. | Of the third ministration of Passion Wednesday, at night; and of the Supplications. |
| 70. | " xxii. 1. | Of the Thursday of the mysteries, at night, the third time. |
| 71. | " xxii. 31. | Of the Thursday of the mysteries, at the third hour. |
| 72. | " xxii. 39. | Of the night of the Crucifixion, at the first ministration. |
| 73. | " xxii. 65. | Of the third hour of the Crucifixion. [Two leaves gone here.] |
| 77. | " xxiv. 13. | Of the Monday of Rest, at vespers. |
| 78. | " xxiv. 36. | Of the Ascension, at vespers. |
| 1. | John i. 1. | Of the Nativity, at the oblation; and after the Nativity, at matins. |
| 2. | " i. 19. | Of the first Sunday after Epiphany, at vespers. |
| 3. | " i. 29. | Of the first Sunday after Epiphany, at matins. |
| 4. | " i. 43. | Of the Sunday after Epiphany, at matins [<i>sic</i>]. |
| 5. | " ii. 1. | Of the Sunday of the coming in of Lent, at vespers. |
| 6. | " ii. 12. | Of the Saturday of Lazarus, at the oblation. |
| 7. | " ii. 18. | Of the Tuesday of Rest, at matins. |
| 8. | " iii. 1. | Of the Baptism; and the thirty-second Sunday of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 9. | " iii. 13. | Of the thirty-second of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 10. | " iii. 22. | Of the third Sunday after Epiphany, at vespers. |
| 11. | " iv. 4. | Of the beginning of the waters in the night of Epiphany; and the adoration of Pentecost. |
| | | iv. 42. End [of the preceding lesson]. |
| 12. | " iv. 46. | Of the third Sunday after the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 13. | " v. 1. | Of the twelfth Sunday of Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 14. | " v. 19. | Of the vigil of the brethren, at the oblation; and of the departed, at matins. |
| 15. | " v. 30. | Of the third Sunday after Epiphany, at matins; and Thursday of the mysteries, at midday. |
| 16. | " vi. 5. | Of the oblation, of any day. |
| 17. | " vi. 16. | Of the fourth Sunday of Lent, at the oblation. |
| 18. | " vi. 22. | Of the twenty-second of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 19. | " vi. 47. | Of the oblation, of any day. |
| 20. | " vi. 58. | Of Passion Wednesday, at vespers. |
| 21. | " vii. 14. | Of the third hour of the fourth Wednesday of the earthquakes; and the twenty-sixth Sunday of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 22. | " vii. 28. | Of midday of the Wednesday of the earthquakes. |
| 23. | " vii. 37. | Of the Thursday evening of the mysteries; and the twenty-eighth of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 24. | " vii. 45. | Of the fifth Saturday of Lent. |
| 25. | " viii. 21. | Of the night of Passion Tuesday, at the fourth ministration. |
| 26. | " viii. 28. | Of the Wednesday of the earthquakes, at the ninth hour. |

| NO. | PASSAGE. | LESSON. |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 27. | John viii. 39. | Of Stephen, at the oblation. |
| 28. | “ ix. 1. | Of the sixth Sunday of Lent, at matins; and of the thirty-fourth of Resurrection, at matins. |
| 29. | “ x. 1. | Of the Doctors (teachers) Basillius [<i>sic</i>] and Gregorius; and thirty-fifth of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 30. | “ x. 22. | Of the consecration of a church, at matins. |
| 31. | “ xi. 1. | Of the Saturday of Lazarus; and of Peace (or Rest) for the departed. |
| 32. | “ xi. 39. | Of Lazarus, at matins. |
| 33. | “ xi. 47. | Of the Wednesday of the earthquakes, at matins. |
| 34. | “ xi. 55. | Of the Thursday of the mysteries, at night, and at the first ministration. |
| 35. | “ xii. 12. | Of the Sunday of Hosannas, at the oblation. |
| 36. | “ xii. 23. | Of Passion Tuesday, at midday. |
| 37. | “ xiii. 1. | Of the Washing [of the feet], of Thursday of the mysteries. |
| 38. | “ xiii. 20. | Of the night of Wednesday of the earthquakes, at the second ministration. |
| 39. | “ xiv. 1. | Of the ninth hour of Passion Monday. |
| 40. | “ xiv. 15. | Of the vespers of the Sunday of Pentecost. |
| 41. | “ xiv. 28. | Of the first season of the night of the Crucifixion. |
| 42. | “ xv. 20. | Of Pentecost, at matins. |
| 33 [<i>sic</i>] ¹ . | xvi. 16. | Of Pentecost, at oblation. |
| 34. John | xvi. 23. | Of the twentieth Sunday of the Resurrection, at matins. |
| 35. “ | xvii. 1. | Of the seventh of the Resurrection, at vespers. |
| 36. “ | xvii. 12. | Of the night of Thursday of the mysteries, at the fourth ministration. |
| 37. “ | xviii. 1. | Of the night of the Crucifixion, at the second ministration. |
| 38. “ | xviii. 28. | Of the Friday of the Crucifixion, at matins. |
| | (xix. 7, | red letter <i>qof</i> above the line, signifying probably <i>first</i> , or else oblation. The number 38 is repeated at xix. 26, but without a lesson note.) |
| 39. “ | xix. 38. | Of the Saturday of glad tidings (or, of expectation), at matins. |
| 40. “ | xx. 1. | Of the great Thursday of the Resurrection. |
| 41. “ | xx. 19. | Of the dawn of New Sunday. |
| 41 [<i>sic—bis</i>]. | xx. 26. | Of matins of New Sunday. |
| 42. John | xxi. 1. | Of New Sunday, at the oblation. |
| 43. “ | xxi. 15. | Of Simeon Cephas; of Bishops. (Also a red <i>qof</i> in the margin, as at xix. 7.) |

With regard to text, this MS. coincides almost exactly with the American editions (Urnŕ and New York, both Amer. Bib. Soc.), as well as with that of the original Widmanstadt edition of 1555; and steers clear of the numerous variations of sundry European editions

¹ From this point to the end, the numbers are all too small by ten.

(especially English) which were introduced on inferior authority or on mere conjecture. Except in printer's slips on the one hand, or manifest errors on the other, the coincidence of the American and the Widmanstadt text with that of this MS. is so close that collation becomes very monotonous, and is confined mostly to noting peculiarities of punctuation and spelling. A collation of either with the far too highly praised text of Lee or Greenfield would disclose many more differences.

This negative fact is to be taken as evidence of the general excellence of the MS., as representing a text certainly very ancient, and received alike in all the divergent Syrian churches. Besides this, it may be added that the MS. is very carefully written, with comparatively few slips of the scribe; and in the great majority of cases, those slips are corrected either by the scribe himself or by a contemporary hand.

As might be expected, this MS. omits the passages not ordinarily found in Syriac MSS., or which are bracketed in the better printed editions after they were once introduced; such as John vii. 53-viii. 11; Luke xxii. 17, 18. As to those actually erroneous readings preferred by the Syrians, such as "heavy" for "burning" in Luke xxiv.-32, this MS. follows the Widmanstadt and the American editions. Another case (not erroneous, however), all the more interesting from its disappearance from most other editions, even in the various readings, is **ܘܨܘܒ**; for **ܘܨܘܒ**, as a rendering of *ῥαββουῖ* in John xx. 16.

The main differences between this MS. and the American (New York, 1874) edition are in the spelling of the Syriac words for Jews, Herod, Herodias, Rome, Peter, Soldier, Israel, Andrew, and other transliterated or foreign words; the exchange of a longer for a shorter grammatical form, or the reverse; the writing of compound words as separate ones, and the reverse; some slight variations in spelling; the addition or omission of a prefix *waw*, or of a prefix *dolath*, or of a *waw* in the termination, with effect either *nil* or idiomatic only, and in the punctuation. Rarely there is an exchange of one equivalent for another, e.g., Mark viii. 9. **ܘܨܘܒ** for **ܘܨܘܒ**; or of the pronoun for the noun, e.g., Mark v. 46, **ܘܨܘܒ** for **ܘܨܘܒ**; or of one word for another of nearly the same purport but different meaning, e.g., Mark x. 50, **ܘܨܘܒ** for **ܘܨܘܒ**. Of additions, there is scarcely anything worse than that of "Amen" before "I say" in Luke xiii. 25; or of transpositions, anything worse than "Elias and Moses" for "Moses and Elias" in Mark ix. 4; while the worst omission left uncorrected by

the scribe appears to be in Mark i. 6, of the words for "and was there in the wilderness" (homoiotelenton of one line).

I have full material for presenting further differences, having carefully collated the whole MS. ; but I do not suppose that a detailed statement of the results is called for in this article.