

ANCIENT CORRECTIONS IN THE TEXT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (*Tikkun Soopherim*).

THE student of the Old Testament is so much accustomed to the story of the scrupulous care with which the Scribes guarded the Sacred Text, counting even its letters, that it comes as a shock to him to be told that, according to Jewish tradition, he has before him in eighteen places of his Hebrew Bible not the original text, but a text altered by the Scribes! In these eighteen passages, if we may believe a statement which has been frequently made, and perhaps never fully disproved, the original reading was altogether displaced from the MSS, as being unbecoming (or, indeed, in some cases, almost blasphemous), and a Scribes' emendation took its place, the memory of the original reading being preserved in tradition only.

The fullest account of the matter in English is to be found in Dr. Ginsburg's *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*¹; and Mr. T. H. Weir devotes some pages to it in his *Short History of the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament*. Dr. Buhl (*Kanon und Text des A. T.*, 1891) deals with the subject (pp. 103-105), and to some extent² accepts the theory (pp. 251 ff.). The 'Scribes' corrections,' in short, still attract considerable attention, and some of them are accepted by serious scholars.

Yet the evidence alleged for the theory is very thin. The early evidence is ambiguous, while what is unambiguous is too late to be of any real value. A Midrashic fancy; an ambiguous phrase; a misinterpretation; such seems to be the history of the growth of the doctrine of Scribes' emendation.

In the present paper I propose to examine the evidence with

¹ In which the theory of emendation is fully accepted.

² As far as regards the following passages:—Num. xi 15; 1 Sam. iii 13 (in part); Ezek. viii 17; Hab. i 12; Zech. ii 8 [12]; Job vii 20; Lam. iii 20.

regard to the eighteen passages, in order to discover whether it is sufficient to prove that our present text is indeed an altered text, and that the original readings are really preserved in our 'traditional' sources.

The evidence which is to be the subject of this inquiry is derived from authorities which may be divided into three classes, viz. the Midrashic, the Masoretic, and the Exegetical (commentators).

(A.) MIDRASHIM. (These may be roughly described as homiletic commentaries on books of the Old Testament. They are broadly distinguished from later exegetical works, such as those of Rashi, Aben Ezra, and Kimḥi, by their lack of literal and grammatical exegesis and of purely critical matter.) Those useful for the present inquiry are:—

(i) *Siphre* (ed. Friedmann, Vienna, 1864, p. 22 b), a very early work, revised in the second century of the Christian era, and again in the third¹.

(ii) *Mechilta* (ed. Friedmann, Vienna, 1870, p. 39 a), composed in the second century, and revised perhaps towards the close of the same century¹.

(iii) Midrash *Tanhuma* (Mantua, anno 323 = 1563 A. D., p. 32 b, col. 2), a late work in which *Mechilta* and an earlier Midrash *Tanhuma* were used. The earlier *Tanhuma*² (ed. S. Buber, Wilna, 1885) belongs to the fifth or sixth century.

To these some writers would add:—

(iv) *Yalkut Shimeoni* (ed. B. Lorje, Zolkiew, 1859), a compilation by R. Simon of Frankfort (1200–1250 A. D.) from the Midrashim. [Its evidence has not been cited in the important Table VI (below) owing to its secondary character.]

(B.) MASORETIC WORKS. (These deal with the text of the Old Testament, but rather as a fixed thing to be guarded in its integrity, than as subject to correction and improvement.) The chief of these are:—

(i) The printed Masorah found in Rabbinic Bibles (Bomberg's and Buxtorf's). (See the passage at the head of the book of Numbers, repeated in the margin of Ps. cvi 20.) Cited below as '*Masorah* (printed).'

¹ According to Schiller-Szinessy (*Encl. Brit.* MISHNAH) neither *Siphre* nor *Mechilta* was written down before the sixth century A. D.

² According to Eppstein Buber's is the later recension. It does *not* contain the list of *ḥiḥun* passages.

(ii) The *Ochlah w'ochlah* (ed. Frensdorff, Hannover, 1864). There are two MSS of this work, one at Paris, from which Frensdorff printed his edition, containing four hundred articles, and one at Halle¹, containing over a thousand. This second MS, however, does not contain the list of *tikkun sopherim* passages, so that there is grave doubt whether the list belongs to the original form of the book *Ochlah*. The book in one form or another is older than *Kimḥi* (1155-1235 A.D.) who quotes it by name.

(iii) The Masorah found in Yemen MSS (B. M. Orient. 1379 of the fifteenth or sixteenth century, and 2349 of the year 1469 A.D., in the margin of Num. xii 12 (cf. Ginsburg, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, p. 350).

(iv) The Masorah given at the foot of the page containing Zech. ii 12 [8] in the Codex *Petropolitanus Babylonicus* of the year 916 A.D., reproduced in facsimile by Herm. Strack, 1876.

(v) The list published from the Baer MS by S. Baer and H. Strack as an Appendix ('Anhang') to their edition of Ben Asher's Masoretic work *Dikduḳe ha-ʿamim*. The editors seem to think (p. 44, note) that the list may be the work of Ben Asher himself, who flourished in the first half of the tenth century. It is cited in this paper as Ben Asher.

To the Masoretic lists may be added the isolated marginal notes attached to particular passages in Biblical MSS, asserting in each case that the particular passage is '*tikkun sopherim*,' or 'one of the eighteen *tikkun sopherim*.' From the mass of MSS I have singled out a few. Each contains Masorah, and is representative of an important or seemingly important class of MSS.

(a) Camb. Univ. Add. 465. Sephardic of the twelfth or thirteenth century. Contains the whole Bible. Valuable for its Masorah; cf. Schiller-Szinessy, *Catalogue of Hebrew MSS in Camb. Univ. Library*, pp. 18, 19.

(b) Brit. Mus. Orient. 2349. Yemenite of A. D. 1469. Contains the Pentateuch. Sometimes supposed to be valuable on account of its South Arabian origin.

(c) Brit. Mus. Orient. 1379 of the fifteenth or sixteenth century. Contains the Pentateuch. Probably also Yemenite.

(d) Codex *Babylonicus Petropolitanus* (quoted from Strack's facsimile edition of 1876). Finished in the year 916 A. D. Contains the 'Later Prophets' (i.e. Isaiah to Malachi). Valuable as being pointed² on the

¹ Described by H. Hupfeld in *ZDMG* xxi 201-220.

² Three or four columns are left unpointed; see Zech. xiv 5; Mal. i 5.

supralinear system and therefore as being probably different in *provenance* from the bulk of Biblical MSS. (The supposition, however, implied in the title 'Babylonicus' that it has any connexion with Babylon, or with some other place situated equally far towards the East, lacks sufficient support to be probable.)

(e) Camb. Univ. Taylor-Schechter Collection, Job^a. A quarto fragment (centim. 37.5 x 38) of six leaves containing the beginning of Job. North African; 'very old' (Dr. Schechter). From the Genizah at Cairo.

(f) Camb. Univ. Taylor-Schechter Collection, Job^b. A quarto (or folio) fragment consisting of the lower part of two leaves (centim. 2 x 31). Contains some later verses of Job. Also from the Cairo Genizah¹.

(C.) COMMENTATORS.

(i) Rashi (obit 1105 A.D.) of Troyes. I have compared the printed text of the Pentateuch as given in the Vienna Pentateuch (5 vols. 4to, 1859) with Camb. Univ. Add. 626, an important MS (fourteenth century) not used by Berliner for his edition (Berlin, 1866); see Schiller-Szinessy, *Catalogue*, p. 50. For the Prophets (Earlier and Later) I have compared the text printed in Bomberg's Bible (Venice, ed. 2) with Brit. Mus. Harley 150 of A.D. 1257, a MS which contains some important variations from the common text.

(ii) Aben Ezra (1090-1168 A.D.) of Toledo. I have compared the printed text in Job and Psalms with Brit. Mus. Add. 24896 (fifteenth century), and in Genesis and Numbers with Brit. Mus. Add. 26880 (A.D. 1401).

(iii) R. David Kimḥi (1155-1235 A.D.) of Narbonne.

Before tabulating and summarizing the evidence of the authorities specified above, I give two of the passages (one Midrashic from *Mechilta*, and one Masoretic from Cod. *Babyl. Petropol.*) in full, in order to illustrate the nature of this evidence.

(a) *Mechilta* (ed. Friedmann, 1870, p. 39 a) :—

'And in the greatness of thine excellency thou overthrowest them that rise up against thee [Ex. xv 7] that is "thou hast greatly magnified thyself against him who rose up against thee." And who are they who rose up against thee? They who rose up against thy sons. "Thou overthrowest them that rise up against us" is not written here, but "Thou overthrowest them that rise up against thee." It sheweth that every one

¹ Dr. Schechter most kindly called my attention to (e), and I am indebted to him and to the Master of St. John's College for permission to examine (f).

who riseth up against Israel is as if he rose up against the Holy One (Blessed be He!) . . . And similarly it saith (וכה"א), *And he that toucheth them* (בזהם) *is as he that toucheth the apple of his eye* [Zech. ii 8, not M.T.]. Rabbi Jehudah¹ saith, "The apple of an eye" it saith not, but "The apple of his eye" is written; it concerns (if such a thing may be said) the Exalted One, but the Scripture has employed euphemism (אלה שכינה הכתוב). Of the same class (כיתרא בו) is [the passage], *Ye say also, Behold what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it* [Mal. i 13], but the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *For the iniquity which he knew, because his sons did bring a curse upon themselves*², &c. [1 Sam. iii 13], but the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *Why hast thou set me as a mark for thee, so that I am a burden to myself* [Job vii 20]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *Art not thou my king from everlasting, O Lord God, that we die not*³ (ולא נמות) [Hab. i 12, not M.T.]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *Hath a nation changed their gods which yet are no gods? but my people have changed their glory* [Jer. ii 11]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *Thus they changed their glory for the likeness of an ox* [Ps. cvi 20]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. ⁴*And let me not see my wretchedness* [Num. xi 15]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. Of the same class is, *We have no portion in David . . . every man to his tents, O Israel* [2 Sam. xx 1]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. *And, lo, they put the branch to their nose* [Ezek. viii 17]: the Scripture has employed euphemism. *When he cometh out of his mother's womb* [Num. xii 12]: (from our mother's womb one should have said:) the Scripture has employed euphemism. Also here thou sayest, *He that toucheth him* (בו) *is as he that toucheth the apple of his eye*. The Scripture speaketh (if such a thing may be said) concerning the Exalted One, but the Scripture has employed euphemism.⁵

(The passage from *Siphre* reckoned above among the authorities for this paper is closely parallel, but offers a shorter text.)

It may be remarked on the passage from *Mechilta*:

(1) that the *Tikkun* list seems to be ascribed to R. Jehudah

¹ R. Jehudah ben Ilai (first half of second century A. D.).

² Quoted from the R.V., which is used as far as possible for the quotations given in this paper.

³ *Siphre* (in the parallel place) reads, *that I die not* (ולא מות), though otherwise it agrees with M.T.

⁴ The usual formula seems to have fallen out.

ben Ilai, the pupil of R. Akiva and of R. Tarphon. (Notice the return to Zech. ii. 8 [12] at the close.)

(2) that the isolated emendation given, viz. that on Num. xii 12 is not free from suspicion of interpolation. It is indeed found in *Siphre*; but here it reads like an addition to the original text. The text of most Midrashim seems to have been in a 'fluid' state during the early centuries.

(b) Cod. *Babylonicus Petropolitanus* (in a footnote referring to Zech. ii 8 [12]):—

'Eighteen words are *tikkun sopherim*: *But Abraham* [Gen. xviii 22]: *My wretchedness* [Num. xi 15]: *Out of his mother's womb* [Num. xii 12]: *Did bring a curse* [1 Sam. iii 13]: *The branch* [Ezek. viii 17]: *We shall not die* [Hab. i 12]: *Have changed their glory* [Jer. ii 11]: *Each man¹ to your tents, O Israel* [1 Kings xii 16], twice in the verse; and the parallel passage of Chronicles, twice in the verse: *And yet had condemned* [Job xxxii 3]: *So that I am* [Job vii 20]: *Profane²* [Mal. i 12]: *And ye have snuffed* [Mal. i 13]: *Thus they changed* [Ps. cvi 20]: *Rob* [Mal. iii 8, 9]: *The apple of his eye* [Zech. ii 8].

This is the oldest Masoretic reference which we can date to *tikkun sopherim*. It may be remarked:—

(1) No kind of hint is given as to the nature of the process called *tikkun sopherim*.

(2) The list of passages differs from other lists of eighteen.

(3) No alternative reading is given in any passage.

Thus it can be seen that the ancient evidence of *Mechilta* and the Codex *Babylonicus* goes very little way indeed towards supporting the common theory of Scribes' emendation. We have two lists of Biblical passages, one of eleven, which speaks of the employment of euphemism in Scripture, the other of sixteen, which speaks of *tikkun sopherim* without giving any explanation of the phrase. The two lists between them suggest *at the most* one possible various reading. Not a promising beginning for those who wish to establish the common theory!

Most of the evidence which remains exists in a form similar to one or other of the two forms already given. For presenting this remainder tabular statements are most convenient, and

¹ The word *וְאִישׁ*, 'each man,' belongs rightly to 2 Sam. xx 1.

² A verb.

accordingly six tables are given here, viz. (I) a table of the number of passages affected by *tikkun şopherim*, according to different authorities; (II) the identification of the passages according to Midrashic sources; (III) the same according to Masoretic sources; (IV) the same according to marginal notes in Biblical MSS; (V) the same according to the commentators Rashi and Aben Ezra; (VI) a table of the passages, their supposed 'original readings,' and the authorities for and against.

TABLE I.

The number of tikkun şopherim according to different authorities.

Siphre	7 ¹
[Yalkut]	10 ²
[Midrash Haggadol]	10 ³
Mechilta	11
Rashi	11 ⁴
Masorah (printed)	[16 ⁵]
Tanşuma (later form) ⁶	18 ⁷
Masorah of Codex <i>Petropolitanus</i>	18 ⁸
Ochlah (Paris MS) ⁹	18
Şimş	18 ¹⁰
Masorah of Yemenite MSS	18 ¹¹
Ben Asher	18

¹ *Seven* instances (*eight* reckoning two in Num. xii 12) are given in Friedmann's edition, and Rashi (according to Brit. Mus. Harley 150, though not according to printed editions) says on Hab. i 12 that *seven* instances of *tikkun* are found in *Siphre*.

² Job vii 20 is omitted, perhaps through homoeoteleuton; otherwise the list is the same as in *Mechilta*.

³ Num. xi 15 is omitted.

⁴ On Mal. i 13 (printed text = B. M. Harley 150).

⁵ Seventeen, if two instances are to be counted in Num. xii 12; eighteen according to the heading of the list.

⁶ The passage giving a list of *tikkun şopherim* is absent from the (probably) earlier recension of *Tanşuma* published by S. Buber.

⁷ Counting two instances in Num. xii 12.

⁸ Counting two *tikkun* in Malachi not given in other sources, except that one appears in Ben Asher.

⁹ The list of *tikkun şopherim* is absent from the Halle MS of *Ochlah*.

¹⁰ On Ezek. viii 17.

¹¹ The list is the same in contents, but not in arrangement, with that in *Ochlah* (Paris MS).

TABLE II.

Midrashic Lists.

Second or third century. <i>Siphre</i> .	Second century. <i>Mechilta</i> ¹ (= <i>Yalkut</i>).	Century ? <i>Tanhuma</i> (common recension).
Zech. ii 12 [8]	Zech. ii 12 [8]	Zech. ii 12 [8] ²
Job vii 20	Mal. i 13	Mal. i 13 ²
Ezek. viii 17	1 Sam. iii 13	1 Sam. iii 13
Hab. i 12	[Job vii 20] ³	Job vii 20 ³
Ps. cvi 20	Hab. i 12	Hab. i 12 ⁴
Num. xi 15	Jer. ii 11	Jer. ii 11 ²
Num. xii 12	Ps. cvi 20	Ps. cvi 20 ²
	Num. xi 15	Hos. iv 7 ²
	2 Sam. xx 1	Job xxxii 3
	Ezek. viii 17 ⁵	Gen. xviii 22
	Num. xii 12 ⁵	Num. xi 15
		Num. xii 12 ³
		1 Kings xii 16
		2 Chron. x 16
		Lam. iii 20
		2 Sam. xvi 12 ²
		Ezek. viii 17 ²
Sixth century. <i>Brshith Rabba</i> .		
Gen. xviii 22		

¹ Rashi (on Mal. i 13) speaks of *eleven* words of 'ב'ן, but he includes (elsewhere) Gen. xviii 22 and Job xxxii 3, which do not appear among the eleven instances of *Mechilta*. For *Mid. Gad.* see Note II at the end of this article.

² Quoted according to the supposed original reading.

³ Omitted (perhaps through homoeoteleuton) in *Yalkut*.

⁴ Quoted with the reading יצות.

⁵ Transposed in *Yalkut*.

TABLE III. *Masoretic Lists.*

Sixteenth century. <i>Masorah interior.</i> Printed in the Bibles of Bomberg and Buxtorf.	Fifteenth century. <i>Yemen Masorah.</i> (B.M. Orient. 1379 and 2349.)	916 A. D. <i>Masorah.</i> (Cod. <i>Patropolitanus Baby-</i> <i>lonicus.</i>)	Twelfth century ¹ <i>Ochlah w'ochlah.</i> (Paris MS ¹ .)	Century ¹ Ben Asher (Baer MS ² .)
Gen. xviii 22	Gen. xviii 22	Gen. xviii 22	Gen. xviii 22	Gen. xviii 22
Num. xi 15	Num. xi 15	Num. xi 15	Num. xi 15	Num. xi 15
Num. xii 12 (<i>semel</i> , חצי בשרו)	Num. xii 12 (<i>bis</i>)	Num. xii 12 (<i>semel</i> , סרחם אמו)	Num. xii 12 (<i>bis</i>)	Num. xii 12 (<i>bis</i>)
1 Sam. iii 13	1 Sam. iii 13	1 Sam. iii 13	1 Sam. iii 13	1 Sam. iii 13
2 Sam. xvi 12	2 Sam. xvi 12	Ezek. viii 17	2 Sam. xvi 12	2 Sam. xvi 12
2 Sam. xx 1	1 Kings xii 16 (<i>bis</i>)	Hab. i 12	1 Kings xii 16 (<i>semel</i>)	1 Kings xii 16 (<i>semel vid.</i>)
Ezek. viii 17	2 Chron. x 16 (<i>bis</i>)	Jer. ii 11	2 Chron. x 16 (<i>semel</i>)	2 Chron. x 16 (<i>semel vid.</i>)
Hab. i 12	Ezek. viii 17	1 Kings xii 16 (<i>bis</i>)	Jer. ii 11	Hab. i 12
Mal. i 13	Mal. i 13	2 Chron. x 16 (<i>bis</i>)	Ezek. viii 17	Mal. i 12
Zech. ii 12 [8]	Zech. ii 12 [8]	Job xxxii 3	Hos. iv 7	Mal. i 13
Jer. ii 11	Jer. ii 11	Job vii 20	Hab. i 12	Zech. ii 12 [8]
Job vii 20	Hos. iv 7	Mal. i 12	Zech. ii 12 [8]	Jer. ii 11
Hos. iv 7	Hab. i 12	Mal. i 13	Mal. i 13	Ps. cvi 20
Job xxxii 3	Job vii 20	Ps. cvi 20	Ps. cvi 20	Job vii 20
Lam. iii 20	Job xxxii 3	Mal. iii 8, 9	Job vii 20	Job xxxii 3
Ps. cvi 20	Lam. iii 20	Zech. ii 12 [8]	Job xxxii 3	Lam. iii 20
	Ps. cvi 20		Lam. iii 20	Hos. iv 7

¹ This list is wanting in the Halle MS.² This list is published as an appendix to Baer and Strack's edition (1879) of Ben Asher's *Dipdufi ha-ʿamim* (tenth century).

TABLE IV.

Passages to which the note 'ד'ן, or the like, is added in specified Biblical MSS.

Num. xi 15 (a) (b) (c)	Mal. i 12 (d)
Num. xii 12 (b) (c)	Mal. i 13 (d)
Ezek. viii 17 (d)	Job vii 20 (e)
Zech. ii 12 [8] (d)	Job xxxii 3 (a) (f)

(a) Camb. Univ. Add. 465 (whole Bible). (b) Brit. Mus. Orient. 2349 (Pentateuch). (c) Brit. Mus. Orient. 1379 (Pentateuch). (d) *Babylonian Petropolitanus* (Later Prophets). (e) Camb. Univ. Taylor-Schechter Collection, Job^a. (f) Camb. Univ. T.-S. Collection, Job^b.

* * * This Table is intended to illustrate the unsystematic way in which the note 'ד'ן is added in the margin in MSS well furnished with Masorah. The results for (d) and still more for (a) are striking.

TABLE V.

Passages mentioned by Rashi and Aben Ezra¹ in reference to tiḥkun ṣopherim.

Rashi (asserts <i>tiḥkun</i>).	Aben Ezra ² (repudiates <i>tiḥkun</i>).
Gen. xviii 22	Gen. xviii 22
Num. xi 15	Num. xi 15
Num. xii 12 ³	Num. xii 12
[1 Sam. iii 13] ⁴	[Ps. cvi 20 ⁵]
Hab. i 12	Job vii 20
Mal. i 13	Job xxxii 3
Ps. cvi 20 ⁶	Hab. i 12 ⁷
Job xxxii 3 ⁸	

¹ I have not examined fully the evidence of Kimḥi, whose later date makes him of less importance as a witness, but according to the printed text he does not notice *tiḥkun* in connexion with Jer. ii 11; Hos. iv 7; Zech. ii 12 (*in locis*).

² Aben Ezra rejects the ordinary theory of *tiḥkun ṣopherim* in the *Sepher Ḥakoth*; and in his Commentaries he nowhere (so far as I can discover) accepts the *tiḥkun* tradition as yielding trustworthy textual evidence.

³ Two instances according to the printed text, one only (אָמַן for אָמַן) in C. U. Add. 626.

⁴ In the printed text, but omitted in B. M. Harley 150.

⁵ Aben Ezra deals with this passage as an instance of כְּרִיךְ, comparing 2 Sam. xii 14, but he does not use the term 'ד'ן in connexion with it.

⁶ Not mentioned *in loco*, but cited on Job xxxii 3, according to the common texts, but not according to the Mendelssohnian Bible (Fürth, anno 565 [1805]).

⁷ In the *Sepher Ḥakoth* p. 74 b.

⁸ I have not been able to consult any MS with which to check the printed text, though the passage is an important one.

TABLE VI. *The tiqqun passages and their emendations.*

Passage according to M. T.	Alternative 'reading' supposed to be original.	Authorities giving the alternative reading.	Authorities giving no alternative reading, but applying the terms 'ס' or 'ניח' to the passage.	Authorities silent altogether as to the existence of an alternative.
(1) Gen. xviii 22, 'But Abraham stood yet before the Lord.'	'But the Lord stood yet before Abraham.'	Rashi. Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah.</i>	<i>Tanhumā; Bresh. R. Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed). [Aben Ezra, 'No need for 'ס 'ח.']	<i>Siphre; Mechilta. Mid. Gad.</i>
(2) Num. xi 15, 'And let me not look upon my wretchedness' ('evil,' ברעתי).	'And let me not look upon thy evil' (ברעתך). 'And let me not look upon their evil' (ברעתם).	Rashi (on Job xxxii 3). Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah.</i>	<i>Siphre; Mechilta. Tanhumā. Masorah</i> (printed). [Aben Ezra, 'No need for 'ס 'ח.']	(For <i>Mid. Gad.</i> see Note II at the end of this article.)
(3) Num. xii 12, 'Let her not be as one born dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he cometh forth from his mother's womb.'	'Let her not be as one born dead when he cometh out of our mother's womb, so that half of our flesh should be consumed.'	Rashi, <i>in loco.</i>		
		[<i>Mechilta</i> ¹]; <i>Tanhumā</i> ² ; <i>Mid. Gad.</i> ¹ Rashi ² . Ben Asher ² . <i>Ochlah</i> ² . <i>Yemen Masorah</i> ² .	<i>Siphre</i> ² . <i>Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed ²). [Aben Ezra, 'No need for 'ס 'ח.']	
		¹ Single <i>tiqqun</i> ('Our mother').	² Double <i>tiqqun</i> .	³ Single <i>tiqqun</i> ('Our flesh').

TABLE VI (continued).

Passage according to M. T.	Alternative 'reading' supposed to be original.	Authorities giving the alternative reading.	Authorities giving no alternative reading, but applying the terms 'ח' or 'ה' to the passage.	Authorities silent altogether as to the existence of an alternative.
(4) 1 Sam. iii 13, 'For the iniquity which he knoweth, because his sons were cursing themselves' (מקללים להם).	'For the iniquity which he knoweth, because his sons were cursing me' (ט' לי).	[Rashi (<i>in loco</i> 'הב'ה).] <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Mid. Gad.</i>	<i>Mechilta.</i> <i>Tanḥuma.</i> <i>Masorah</i> (of <i>Cod. Bab. Pet.</i> and printed).	<i>Siphre.</i>
	'... were cursing him.'	Ben Asher (<i>vid.</i>). <i>Yemen Masorah.</i>		
(5) 2 Sam. xvi 12, 'It may be that the Lord will look upon my eye' (בעיני)¹.	'... will look with his eyes' (בעיני).	<i>Tanḥuma</i> , Stettin edition, anno 624 [1864].	<i>Masorah</i> (printed).	Rashi, <i>in loco.</i> <i>Siphre.</i> <i>Mechilta.</i> <i>Cod. Bab. Pet.</i>
	'... will look upon my trouble' (בעיני).	<i>Masorah</i> (printed). B. M. Orient. 1379.		
	'... will look with his eye' (בעינו).	<i>Tanḥuma</i> , Mantua edition, anno 323 [1563]. Ben Asher; <i>Ochlah.</i>		
(6) 2 Sam. xx 1, 'Every man to his tents (לאחליו), O Israel.'	[<i>vide infra.</i>]		<i>Mechilta.</i> <i>Masorah</i> (printed).	All other authorities.

¹ So Kri; 'on the wrong done unto me' R.V. following the C'thib, נשני.

TABLE VI (continued).

1 Kings xii 16, 'So Israel departed unto his tents' (לְאֶחָדָיו).	['So Israel departed unto his gods' (לְאֱלֹהָיו). ¹]	Ben Asher, <i>Ochlah, Yemen Masorah, Tanhuma</i> ² (all supplying same <i>tikkun</i> in Chron.).	Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i>	<i>Siphre. Mechilta.</i> Rashi, <i>in loco.</i>
(7) Ezek. viii 17, 'And, lo, they put the branch to their nose' (אֵל דָּמָם).	'And, lo, they put the branch to my nose' (אֵל דָּמִי). '... his nose' (לְאֵינו).	<i>Tanhuma; Mid. Gad. Yemen Masorah.</i> R. D. Kimhi. <i>Ochlah.</i>	<i>Siphre; Mechilta. Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed).	Rashi, <i>in loco.</i> Ben Asher.
(8) Hab. i 12, 'Art not thou from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? we shall not die' (לֹא נָמוּת).	'... my Holy One, [who] diest not' (לֹא יָמוּת). '... my Holy One, he who dieth not' (לֹא יָמוּת).	Rashi, <i>in loco.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah. Yemen Masorah. Mid. Gad. Tanhuma.</i>	<i>Siphre; Mechilta. Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed).	
(9) Mal. i 13, 'And ye have snuffed at it' (אָחַז).	'And ye have snuffed at me' (אָחַזְתִּי).	Rashi, <i>in loco.</i> <i>Tanhuma; Mid. Gad.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah and Yemen Masorah.</i>	<i>Mechilta. Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed).	<i>Siphre.</i>

¹ The *Masorah* (of *Yemen* and of Cod. *Bab. Pet.*) has, it appears, a double *tikkun*, 'To thy gods . . . unto his gods.' *Mid. Gad.* has 'To thy gods' only, and has no mention of Chron.

² Bible text influenced by 2 Sam. xx 1.

TABLE VI (continued).

Passage according to M.T.	Alternative 'reading' supposed to be original.	Authorities giving no alternative reading, but applying the terms 'ח' or 'ס' to the passage.	Authorities giving no alternative reading, but applying the terms 'ח' or 'ס' to the passage.	Authorities silent altogether as to the existence of an alternative.
(10) Zech. ii 12 [8], 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts, . . . He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye' (עיני).	' . . . He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of my eye' (עיני).	<i>Tanḥuma; Mid. Gad.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah</i> ² . <i>Shemoth R.</i> (§ 13).	<i>Siphre</i> . [<i>Mechilta</i> ¹ .] <i>Masorah</i> (of <i>Cod. Bab.</i> <i>Pet.</i> and printed).	Rashi, <i>in loco</i> . R. D. Kimḥi, <i>in loco</i> .
(11) Jer. ii 11, 'But my people have changed their glory (כבודי) for that which doth not profit.'	' . . . my glory (כבודי) . . . '	<i>Tanḥuma; Mid. Gad.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah</i> .	<i>Mechilta.</i> <i>Masorah</i> (of <i>Cod. Bab.</i> <i>Pet.</i> and printed).	Rashi. R. D. Kimḥi. <i>Siphre</i> .
(12) Job vii 20, 'Why hast thou set me as a mark for thee, so that I am a burden to myself?' (עלי).	' . . . So that I am a burden to thee' (עליד).	<i>Tanḥuma; Mid. Gad.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah</i> .	[Aben Ezra ² .] <i>Siphre; Mechilta.</i> <i>Masorah</i> (of <i>Cod. Bab.</i> <i>Pet.</i> and printed).	Rashi, <i>in loco</i> .
(13) Hos. iv 7, 'I will change their glory (כבודם) into shame.'	' . . . my glory (כבודי) . . . '	<i>Tanḥuma.</i> Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah.</i> <i>Yemen Masorah</i> .	<i>Masorah</i> (printed).	Rashi; R. D. Kimḥi. <i>Siphre; Mechilta.</i> <i>Cod. Bab. Pet.</i>
(14) Job xxxii 3, 'And yet they had condemned	' . . . condemned God' (or 'the Lord'	[Rashi, <i>in loco</i> ⁴ .]	<i>Masorah</i> (printed). <i>Tanḥuma.</i>	<i>Siphre; Mechilta.</i> <i>Cod. Bab. Pet.</i>

¹ See above, p. 391.² B. M. Orient. 1379 is defective here.³ See below, p. 412.⁴ See bel

TABLE VI (continued).

VOL. I.	Job' (וירשעו את איוב).	or — euphemistically — 'the Judgement').	Ben Asher. [<i>Yemen Masorah</i> and <i>Ochlah</i> , 'condemned the Judgement,' an euphemism.]	[Aben Ezra, <i>i. l.</i>]	
	(15) Lam. iii 20, 'And my soul (נפשי) is bowed down within me' (עלי).	'And my soul sinketh down upon thee' (עליך). 'And thy soul (נפשך) will mourn over me' (עלי) ¹ .	Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah</i> . <i>Yemen Masorah</i> .	<i>Masorah</i> (printed). <i>Tanhumā</i> .	<i>Siphre</i> ; <i>Mechilta</i> . Rashi; Aben Ezra. Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i>
D P	(16) Ps. cvi 20, 'Thus they changed their glory (כבודם) for the likeness of an ox.'	'. . . my glory (כבודי) . . .'	Ben Asher. <i>Ochlah</i> . <i>Yemen Masorah</i> . <i>Tanhumā</i> ; <i>Mid. Gad</i> .	<i>Siphre</i> ; <i>Mechilta</i> . <i>Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i> and printed).	[Rashi ² .] Aben Ezra ² .
	(17) Mal. i 12, 'But ye profane it' (אתו).	'But ye profane me' (אתי).	Ben Asher.	<i>Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i>).	Rashi. <i>Siphre</i> ; <i>Mechilta</i> . <i>Tanhumā</i> . <i>Ochlah</i> . <i>Masorah</i> (<i>Yemen</i> , and printed).
	(18) Mal. iii 8, 9, 'Ye rob me' (<i>bis</i>).	[Not known.]	[No authorities.]	<i>Masorah</i> (of Cod. <i>Bab. Pet.</i>).	All other authorities.

¹ So Dr. Ginsburg, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, p. 361; Dr. Buhl, *Kanon des A. T.*, p. 105.

² See below, p. 411.

³ See below, p. 411.

From a study of the contents of the foregoing tables we may draw several deductions:—

(1) The *tikkun* tradition lacks definiteness as to (i) the number of passages affected, (ii) the identity of the passages, (iii) the nature of the change made or supposed to be made in the text.

(2) The tradition (in one form or another) is a favourite element in the Midrashim, including the earliest known.

(3) The tradition has not an undisputed position in the *Masorah*, as the following facts show:—

(a) It is doubtful if it had a place in Ben Asher's *Dikdukē*.

(b) It is not found in the Halle MS of *Ochlah*.

(c) It is only casually noted in Biblical MSS which are provided with *Masorah*.

(d) The authority of the printed *Masorah* (in which the *tikkun* list is found) is doubtful, for it is not known whether it rests on direct authority of MSS or not.

(4) The two earliest commentators of greatest name either fail to support the tradition in its fullness (Rashi), or treat it as a thing which may be set aside (Aben Ezra).

From the first three of these deductions we may, I think, tentatively draw a fresh conclusion, viz. *The tikkun tradition belongs rather to Midrash than to Masorah*, i.e. its true bearing is on exegesis, not on textual criticism; the *tikkunē sopherim* are interpretations not readings. This conclusion can, I believe, be verified (i) by an examination of the terms used in the oldest authorities in rendering the tradition, (ii) by a detailed examination of the evidence alleged for each case of *tikkun*.

(i) The terms used in our authorities with regard to these passages are many; *tikkun sopherim* is only one form out of a dozen. Yet a careful scrutiny leaves us with two formulas only which are ancient, from which all the rest appear to be derived; these two formulas are כינה הכתוב ('the Scripture has employed euphemism')¹ and תיקון סופרים ('scribes' correction')². Now the first thing to be noted is that the latter formula is ambiguous, while the former bears an unmistakable meaning.

¹ *Siphre*; *Mechilta*; *Ochlah*; Ben Asher; [*Yemen Masorah*; *Tanhuma*].

² *Breshith Rabba*; *Masorah* of Cod. Bab. Fet. [and of Yemen]; printed *Masorah*; [*Tanhuma*].

The phrase 'the Scripture¹ has employed euphemism' is irreconcilable with the theory that the text of Scripture has been altered by transcribers. It means not that a euphemism has been introduced into Scripture, but that it was already found there and noted. The second phrase 'ס'ח' 'scribes' correction' stands on different ground. It is ambiguous, and *two* views of its meaning seem to have been taken by the Jews themselves.

According to one view *tikkun sopherim* was a *viva voce* correction (or modification) of Scriptural language authorized for homiletic purposes by the Scribes. This seems to be the meaning of the phrase adopted in the printed Masorah and in Ben Asher. The printed Masorah heads its list with the title 'י"ח סלין בקריאה חקן סופרים', 'the eighteen expressions [which] in reading [are] *tikkun sopherim*.' Similarly Ben Asher introduces his list with the remark that *They are not written according to their tikkun, but the wise men of Israel read them with tikkun sopherim* ('קורין אותם כה'ס). The scribes interpret a supposed euphemism, and their interpretation is called *tikkun sopherim*.

The other sense given to the phrase *tikkun sopherim* seems to be that of a 'change' (mental, not written) made by the original writers or redactors of Scripture. 'Our Rabboth' writes Rashi² 'turned back in writing thus' (on Gen. xviii 22), i. e. they recoiled from putting into writing a thought which some of their readers might expect them to express. A number of phrases in which the *tikkun* is connected with Ezra and the Great Synagogue arise, it seems, from this view.

Such phrases are :—

- (1) '*Tikkun* of Ezra' (margin of Yemenite Masorah).
- (2) '*Tikkun* of Ezra and the scribes' (Cod. Taylor-Schechter, Job b).
- (3) '*Tikkun* of Ezra and Nehemiah and Zechariah and Haggai and Baruch' (Cod. Taylor-Schechter, Job a).
- (4) '*Tikkun* of the scribes, even of the men of the Great Synagogue' (*Tanhuma*).
- (5) '*Tikkun* of the scribes, or as some say *Tikkun* of Ezra' (*Yemen Masorah*).

¹ The Heb. ספרת corresponds with the Greek τὸ γεγραμμένον or τὸ γραφέν.

² Surely not 'call them *tikkun sopherim*.'

³ Or the editor of Rashi's Commentary, see below, p. 405.

To these may be added:—

(6) 'Ezra made a *tikkun*' (תקן עזרא; *Ochlah* in its heading to the passages).

(7) 'The scribes made a *tikkun*' (Rashi on Job xxxii 3)¹.

Probably the *tikkun* tradition is connected with the tradition which ascribes the redaction of several books of Scripture to the Great Synagogue. According to 4 Esdras xiv 19 ff., Ezra, with five companions, re-wrote under inspiration the Law (the whole Old Testament apparently; *omne quod factum est in saeculo ab initio, quae erant in lege tua inscripta*) which had been burnt, presumably by the Chaldeans. This tradition was a favourite one with the Fathers, from Irenaeus downwards (Bensly-James, *Fourth Book of Ezra, Texts and Studies*, vol. iii, no. 2, p. xxxvii), but in origin it is almost certainly Jewish. Certainly those scholars who disbelieve in the existence of the Great Synagogue ought to feel their belief in the ordinary doctrine of *tikkun şopherim* shaken.

(ii) It now remains to examine each instance of *tikkun şopherim* by itself, in order to decide by a consideration of external evidence, and of internal probability, whether it is likely that our present text is an altered form, and that the original form is preserved in the *tikkun* tradition.

The first passage to be examined is Gen. xviii 22. It is not marked as *tikkun* in the earliest Midrashim, *Siphre* and *Mechilta*, but the *Breshith Rabba* (sixth century) xlix 7, has the remark, 'R. Simon said, This is *tikkun şopherim*, for the Shechinah was tarrying for Abraham.' The fuller form of the same comment is preserved in the *Midrash Shemoth* (not earlier than the tenth century?) xli 4, 'R. Simon said, Come and see what is written, *And the men rose up from thence and looked toward Sodom* (Gen. xviii 16), &c. It was due [for the Scripture] to say (לא היה צריך לוטר אלא), *And the Lord stood yet before Abraham*, but it is *tikkun şopherim*.' The tradition quoted in the name

¹ The terms in which *tikkun* (or *hinnui*, as the writer prefers to call it) is described in Ben Asher are at first sight mutually contradictory. The list itself begins thus:—'And Abraham stood yet. "And the Lord stood yet" it was, but the Scripture has employed euphemism.' The phrase 'it was' (היה) is, however, probably an abbreviation of the phrase used in *Ochlah*, 'One should have said' (רצו). [Cf. the היה לו נוטר of *Mechilta* (on Num. xii 12).] The preface to the list denies that the *şopherim* 'blotted out and wrote afresh.'

of R. Simon is to the effect that the author of the text quoted wrote one thing, when it was to be expected that he would have written quite another. He employed euphemism. There is nothing here of a transcriber emending the text which lay before him. The comment of Rashi on this place is based upon R. Simon's tradition, but it is somewhat fuller in wording. Its conclusion runs thus, 'This is *tikkun ṣopherim*; [for our Rabbith made a change ("turned back") in writing thus (שׁפְּרִימוּ רַבּוּת לְכַתּוּב בֵּן)].' The bracketed words (the genuineness of which is doubtful), though at first sight they seem to favour the common theory of *tikkun ṣopherim*, will nevertheless bear an explanation which yields no support to the theory. 'Our Rabbith' may be identified with the *ṣopherim* just mentioned, and by the *ṣopherim* we may understand, as has been said above, the original writers or redactors of books of Scripture. The statement that these writers or redactors 'made a change' or 'turned back' in writing ver. 22 b is easy of explanation. After writing that 'the [three] men' went towards Sodom, the natural continuation was to write, *But the Lord stood yet by* (עָלָה) *Abraham*. But something checked the pen before it could write the bold words; there was a *change*, and the Scripture ran, *But Abraham stood yet before the Lord*. Thus since the meaning of the clause is ambiguous and its genuineness doubtful, this comment does not justify us in counting Rashi as a witness for the common theory of *tikkun ṣopherim*. It may be added that the versions (Targum, Peshitta, LXX³, Vulgate) give no hint of the supposed 'original reading.' Α Σ Θ' in Field's *Hexapla* are silent. Kautzsch and Socin in their German edition of Genesis (1888), in which the 'Quellenschriften' are distinguished typographically, take the 'original reading' into the text. Delitzsch, however, who had more Rabbinical learning than Kautzsch and Socin, rejects it.

The next instance is Num. xi 15. Here *Siphre* (ed. Friedmann, p. 25 a) gives the paraphrase, 'Let me not look upon the retribution which is to come upon them.' Rashi accordingly writes *in loco*, 'Their wretchedness (or "their evil" בְּרַעְיוֹת) one should have written, but the Scripture has employed

¹ Quoted from C. U. Add. 626; the clause is omitted in some MSS, cf. Berliner, *in loco*.

² So Rashi (according to C. U. Add. 626).

³ Cod. A; Lucian; *hiat* B.

euphemism; and this is one of the *tikkunē sopherim*¹ for the euphemizing and correction (תקן) of the language.' The same writer, however (on Job xxxii 3), has a different remark on the text of Num. xi 15. He writes: '*Thy wretchedness* (or "*Thy evil*" ברעתך) one should have written, but the Scripture has employed euphemism.' Thus we have two 'original readings' offered us by one authority in the place of the present Masoretic reading, *My wretchedness*. The inference can hardly be avoided that *Siphre* and Rashi are not stating facts, but offering suggestions; they are as it were playing with the text in order to point out that Moses' evil was the people's evil, and that a people's evil was their God's evil. This is plainly the view of Aben Ezra (*in loco*) who points out that the reading *My wretchedness* gives good sense, and then adds 'and there is no need for *tikkun sopherim*.' This is not the way in which one would speak of a real variant. Again the versions (Targum, Peshitta², Vulgate³) give no support to the 'original reading.' LXX B has τῆν κάκωσιν *sine add.*, a reading which may be significant, but cod. A and Lucian have μου, and the Lyons Pentateuch (O. L.) *meam*, in agreement with the M.T. Α' Σ' Θ' in Field are silent. The common interpretation of the *tikkun* tradition breaks down hopelessly in this instance. The evidence for classing Num. xi 15 among the *tikkun* (or *kinnui*) passages is very early (*Siphre* and *Mechilta*), but early evidence fails to prove that a genuine various reading of this verse has been preserved by tradition.

Num. xii 12. On this passage *Siphre* (ed. Friedmann, p. 28 a) comments as follows:—

'From the womb of his mother. [It should be,] "From the womb of our mother," but the Scripture has employed euphemism in respect to this phrase. *And half of his flesh is consumed.* "Half of our flesh" ought to have been said (היה צריך לוטר) in the sense in which that expression is used in the passage, *For he is our brother, our flesh.*'

Rashi (*in loco*) has a similar comment, based no doubt on *Siphre*. But it is important to note that there is no assertion either in Rashi or in the *Siphre* of an alteration of the text by early transcribers. The *Siphre* simply points out that a certain

¹ I omit the word נטררה, 'in the Law,' with C. U. Add. 626.

² Verified. *Lee* = B. M. Add. 14425 (A. D. 464); Cod. Ambrosianus; edition of Urmi.

³ *Ne tantis afficiar malis.*

passage would yield good sense, if read differently from the traditional reading. Such remarks on the text are not uncommon in Midrashim and in the Talmud¹. That the *tikkun* tradition has here preserved a true various reading is a statement wholly devoid of support. No version preserves the supposed 'original reading.' The *wēlā nehwe*, with which the Peshitta² renders אַל תְּהִי, comes probably from the μὴ γένηται of the LXX (which often influences the present text of the Peshitta), and should not be rendered (as in Walton's Polyglot) by *et non simus*. The ἐκ μήτρας μητρός *sine add.* and the σαρκῶν αὐτῆς of the LXX and the paraphrase of the Targum ('Pray now for the dead flesh which is in her') in no way suggest the בשרנו of the *tikkun*, though they show that the אמו and בשרו of the M.T. gave trouble to translators.

1 Sam. iii 13. Here neither the *Mechilta* nor Rashi asserts that the scribes made an alteration in the text. The latter writes, *in loco*:—

'Because his sons were cursing them (להם). Cursing me (לי) one ought to have said (והיה לו לומר), but the Scripture has employed an euphemism.' [The comment is absent from B. M. Harley 150.]

In this instance the versions offer readings which need some consideration. The Peshitta³, either paraphrasing להם or reading לעם, gives *were reviling the people*. The Greek (Codd. AB and Lucian), however, is more suggestive; it reads κακολογούντες θεὸν [οἱ] υἱοὶ αὐτοῦ. Similarly Lucifer of Cagliari (a valuable authority for the Old Latin), as cited by Sabatier, gives *Quoniam contemnentes Dominum mala locuti sunt filii eius*. Thus we have Rashi, the LXX, and Lucifer agreeing that the object of the verb *were reviling* is not להם. On the other hand the difference between Rashi and the LXX, and again between the LXX and Lucifer, as to the actual word to be supplied, shows us

¹ 'PLAYING' WITH THE TEXT.—Bab. Talm. *Hāgigah* (fol. 13 a) on Prov. xxvii 26 (*The lambs are for thy clothing*):—'Do not read it lambs (בנשים), but *hidden things* (בנשים).'

Bab. Talm. *Shabbath* (fol. 55 a) on Ezek. ix 6 (*and begin at my sanctuary*):—'Do not read it *at my sanctuary* (מסקס) but *at my sanctified ones* (מסקסו).'

In neither case is the 'emendation' put forward as an existing variant, but simply as an occasion for a particular lesson to be enforced.

² Verified. *Le* = B. M. Add. 14425; Cod. Ambrosianus; edition of Urmi.

³ *Le* = Cod. Ambrosianus; C. U. Add. 1964; edition of Urmi.

that their agreement is on a matter of interpretation, not of reading. We can read neither לִי with Rashi, nor θεόν with the LXX; evidence such as this does not carry us behind the reading מסללים להם.

2 Sam. xvi 12. Rashi's comment on this passage is simply, 'The Lord will look upon my eye, i. e. upon the tears of my eye' (so Targum). Clearly the commentator did not include this passage in his list of *tikkun sofferim*. Neither do the versions testify to the supposed original reading of the passage. LXX (codd. A B [Lucian]) gives ἐν τῇ ταπεινώσει μου (i. e. בעני¹ for בעיני). Field gives no variants from LXX. The Masorah itself, as represented by the Kri and C'thib, reads for the former *upon my eye*, and for the latter *upon my iniquity* (or *upon my punishment*), and altogether ignores such a reading as *with his eye*. Peshitta² and Vulgate agree with LXX.

On 2 Sam. xx 1 Rashi has no note at all. The Peshitta³, Targum, LXX, and Vulgate, agree with the M.T. No variation from the ordinary text is cited in Field. In 1 Kings xii 16, and in the passage parallel with it, 2 Chron. x 16, the Peshitta³, Targum, LXX, and Vulgate, give no hint of any reading 'gods' for 'tents.' Field cites no variant from the later Greek versions. Rashi is silent on 1 Kings xii 16; on 2 Chron. x. 16 he has a note, but no mention of *tikkun sofferim*.

On Jer. ii 11 neither Rashi nor Kimḥi⁴ has any note. The LXX, Peshitta⁵, Vulgate, and Aquila *apud* Field, agree with the M.T. Theodotion and Symmachus are not cited. The rendering of the Targum seems to represent the כְּבָרוֹי of the M.T., 'They have forsaken my service for the sake of which I bring upon them glory.'

Ezek. viii 17. Rashi has a long note on this passage, but makes no mention of *tikkun*. Kimḥi, however, remarks '*Their nose*: it means (רִצְחָה לוֹמַר) *my nose*, but the Scripture has employed

¹ So the printed *Masorah* in quoting this passage among the eighteen, though it does not profess to give the 'original reading' of any passage affected by *tikkun sofferim*. B. M. Orient. 1379 also has בעני.

² *Lee* = Cod. Ambrosianus; C. U. Add. 1964; edition of Urmi.

³ *Lee* (1 Kings xii 16) = Cod. Ambrosianus; C. U. Add. 1964; edition of Urmi.

⁴ Aben Ezra seems not to have commented on Jeremiah.

⁵ The reading of *Lee* (here and in the instances in Ezek., Hos., Hab., Zech., and Mal.) has been verified by comparison with Cod. Ambrosianus; C. U. 'LL 2. 4' (Edessa, 1173 A. D.); and C. U. Add. 1965 (Nestorian, fifteenth century).

euphemism, and it is one of the eighteen words which are *tikkun ṣopherim*.¹ The versions give no support to a reading **דמ**. The LXX (ὡς μὴ κτηνίζουσες) is perhaps too free a rendering for absolute certainty, but the three later Greek versions *apud* Field, and the Peshitta¹, Targum, and Vulgate support **דמ** without doubt.

Hos. iv 7. Neither Rashi nor *Ḳimḥi* makes any mention of a variation here. The LXX and Vulg. agree with the M.T. No variation from the M.T. is recorded in Field from Aquila, Symmachus, and Theodotion. On the other hand the Targum (with which the Peshitta² agrees almost *ad literam*) has what is almost a *tikkun* of its own, יקרחו בקלנא חליפו 'they changed their glory for shame.'

Hab. i 12. Rashi writes:—

'The prophet says, And thou, wherefore dost thou keep silence at all this? *Art not thou from everlasting, my God, my Holy One, who diest not* (לא תמות). And this which is written *We shall not die* (לא נמות) is one of the *tikkunē ṣopherim* which are in Scripture, for the Scripture has employed euphemism; cp. (וכן), *And ye have snuffed at it* [Mal. i 13], and there are seven³ similar instances which are set forth in *Siphre*. And according to the *tikkun ṣopherim* the interpretation is this, *Art thou not my God from everlasting? My Holy One, give me not for death into his hand.*'

Again LXX and Vulg. agree with M.T., except that with *Siphre* and *Mechilta* they read **ולא** for **לא**. Field gives no Greek variant, but Symmachus, quoted by Jerome, gives 'ut non moreremur' an idiomatic rendering of the Masoretic text.

The Targum, however, reads מִימְרָךְ קִיִּים לְעֵלְמִין, which is a paraphrase of **לא תמות**. [The Peshitta⁴, **ולא נמוס** ('without law'), is probably a corruption of **ולא נמות**, which should be taken in agreement with the M.T. as a first person plural.] Lastly, it must be noted that *Siphre* quotes the passage with **ולא אמות** for **לא נמות**. If the text were otherwise settled, we might pass over this fresh reading as due simply to inaccurate quotation, but under the circumstances we are bound to take note of it. We are left, then, with three possible readings

¹ Verified; cf. note ³, p. 408.

² Verified.

³ B. M. Harley 150 reads וקו ו דמסו for the וקו דמסו of the printed text.

⁴ Verified.

(1) נסות M.T., LXX, Vulg. [Pesh. ?]; (2) תסות Targum; (3) ספחז Siphre. To these must perhaps be added (4) יסות *Tanhuma*¹. It must be confessed that the weight of the evidence thus displayed is decidedly in favour of the נסות of the M.T., and the *tikhun* tradition does not turn the scale in favour of תסות. The Targum contains a Midrashic element, and its reading here is not improbably a Midrashic play on the original reading, viz. that of the Masoretic Text. It should be mentioned here that the tendency to avoid anthropomorphism is far from universal in Talmudic and Rabbinic literature. Sometimes an exactly opposite tendency makes itself strongly felt. Thus in *Siphre* (ed. Friedmann, 22 b) it is said that when Israel went into exile to 'Edom,' the Shechinah was with them, and when they return *the Shechinah will return* with them.

Zech. ii 12 [8]. Neither Rashi nor Kimhi mentions *tikhun* in connexion with this passage. LXX and Peshitta read עיני 'his eye,' Targum עיניו 'his eyes.' The Vulgate, however (as printed in Stier and Theile), has 'tangit pupillam oculi mei' (i. e. עיני the alleged 'original reading'), but some MSS (affected, perhaps, by the LXX through the Old Latin) read *eius* or *sui* for *mei*. Field cites nothing here from the later Greek versions. It is not uninteresting that *Siphre*, *Mechilta*, *Shemoth R.* (§ 13), and the printed *Masorah*, together with five [seven] MSS cited by Kennicott, give כנוע for נוע, and that LXX has *ὡς ἀπτόμενος*, and the Targum כרמשימ דייה למיקרב. One spirit of glossing inspired them all.

Mal. i 12. This instance is without visible means of support from versions and commentators. As an interpretation it is correct: *Ye profane it* means *Ye profane my name, Ye profane me*.

Mal. i 13. Rashi² writes (*in loco*):—

'*Ye say also, Behold a weariness*, i. e. a lean beast and one driven away (תהלאה), for we were poor and there was no power in our hands to vow choice offerings; and in this sense Jonathan has interpreted, *Behold we brought our fulness* ("the best that we had"). *And ye have snuffed at it* (והסחתם אותו). This is one of the eleven words of *tikhun*. *At me* they pointed [the word] (נקוד), but the Scripture has employed

¹ In *Tanhuma* most of the passages are quoted in their 'original' form, so that תסות is strictly speaking a variant of נסות.

² Emended from B. M. Harley 150, which varies considerably from Bomberg's text (and edit.).

euphemism, and *at it* is written (וכתו' איתו). *And ye have snuffed [at it]*, i. e. "and ye have made [it] waste away"; [הפחתם] is in the sense of blowing away with the breath. [*Ye have snuffed*] *at me* and at my table.'

This passage suggests no alteration of the consonantal text at all. It tells us that *punctators* (all or some only?) added a point to suggest the reading of י for ו. The written text, however, is clearly stated to be איתו (*at it*); the איתי (*at me*) is simply an unveiling of a supposed euphemism of Scripture. The versions here give an uncertain sound. The Targum, the Vulgate, and Cod. N and Cod. 311 (according to H. P.) of the LXX as well as the Complutensian edition support the Masoretic Text. On the other hand the Peshitta has *w'nephhēth b'hōn* (Cod. Ambros.), 'And I rejected them' (the sacrificers), or (C. U. 'Ll. 2. 4'; C. U. Add. 1965) *b'hēn* 'them' (the sacrifices). Similarly LXX (ABQΓ) has ἐξεφύσησα αὐρά.

Mal. iii 8, 9. Here the expression אתם קבעים 'ye rob' (R.V.) is supposed to be substituted for the original reading, and it has been supposed that the περιιζετε (= אתם עקבים) 'ye attack in the rear' or 'ye trip up' of the LXX represents this original reading. But the supposition lacks support; one only of our authorities mentions Mal. iii 8, 9, as a *tikkun* passage at all, and even that one does not give us the alleged displaced reading. It seems, in fact, that the LXX guessed, as do the rest of the versions, at the meaning of a rare and obscure word. א'ס'ת' give ἀποστερείτε; Vulgate *configitis*; Peshitta *tāl'min* 'ye injure'; Targum מרנון קרמי 'ye provoke me.' From a passage so obscure it is well to keep out the obscure subject of *tikkun*, since there is so little authority for introducing it.

Ps. cvi 20. Here Rashi (*in loco*) gives no hint of any variation¹, but Aben Ezra writes:—

'Thus they changed their glory. An euphemism for the glory of the Name²; cp. [2 Sam. xii 14] *Because thou hast verily despised [the enemies of the Lord]*. And there the euphemistic expression is in reference to David the king by way of reproof; and he said not to him, *Because thou hast verily despised the Name.*'

With this note of Aben Ezra agrees the Targum ופרנון ית איקר ריבניהו, 'and they changed the glory of their Lord,' but the

¹ But see his comment (quoted below) on Job xxxii 3.

² i. e. 'the glory of Jehovah.'

agreement need not necessarily be more than an agreement in interpretation. Aben Ezra does not say anything about a change of reading. LXX B, Peshitta, and Vulgate support the M.T. The LXX variant τῆν δόξαν αὐτοῦ (8^o ART) is probably a corruption introduced from the parallel place (Jer. ii 11). Field is silent.

Job vii 20. On this passage Rashi mentions no variant, but Aben Ezra writes:—

'So that I am a burden to myself (עלי). A *tikkun ṣopherim* although the interpretation is certain (נכון) without a *tikkun*.'

The LXX here stands alone among the versions in supporting the alleged original reading; it reads εἰμι δὲ ἐπὶ σοὶ (= עליך) φορτὸν. (This σοὶ may, however, be derived from the σοῦ of the previous clause.) Peshitta, Targum, and Vulgate agree with the M.T. Field is silent.

Job xxxii 3. Here Rashi writes:—

'And yet they had condemned Job. This is one of the verses in which the scribes have corrected (תקנו סופרים) the language of Scripture; and they passed by their silence a condemnatory judgement in reference to the Omnipresent (וישיעו כלפי המקום) one ought to have written, but the Scripture has employed euphemism (בניה הכתר). Compare [Ps. cvi 20], *Thus they changed their glory for the likeness of an ox; my glory* one ought to have written, but the Scripture has employed euphemism¹. Compare also [Num. xi 15], *And let me not look upon my wretchedness* ("my evil"); *on thy evil* one ought to have written, but the Scripture has employed euphemism. Compare also many places [cited] in *Siphre* and in the *Masorah magna*.'

Aben Ezra on the other hand (*in loco*) writes:—

'And it is written (כתוב) that it is an instance of *tikkun ṣopherim*, but they who say so, know that which has been hidden from me.'

Three of the versions (Peshitta, Targum, and Vulgate) reproduce the M.T., while the LXX gives no support to the supposed original reading, for it has καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτὸν εἶναι ἀσεβῆ, with the variant εὐσεβῆ, which is plainly a secondary reading. A'S'Θ' *apud* Field are silent.

Lam. iii 20. Neither Rashi nor Aben Ezra (whose commentary on Lamentations, however, is rather slight) mentions

¹ This whole sentence is omitted in the *Fürth Bible* (anno 565 = 1805 A. D.).

a variant. The versions, Peshitta, Targum, LXX, and Vulgate, support the M.T. There is nothing in Field to support the *tikkun*.

CONCLUSION.

I have already drawn tentatively (p. 402) the conclusion that the *tikkun* tradition is not Masoretic (i. e. textual), but Midrashic (i. e. exegetical or, more accurately, homiletic). This conclusion was based on the nature of the documents in which the *data* of the subject are contained ; it is supported further by the consideration of each passage in detail. There is no confirmatory evidence in favour of the 'original reading' of Gen. xviii 22. Of Num. xi 15 the utmost which can be said is that the reading of LXX B throws a slight doubt on the M. T. In Num. xii 12 the two 'original readings' are impossible as readings, possible only as flights of homiletic fancy. In 1 Sam. iii 13 the M. T. is probably corrupt, and the tradition of the *sopherim* may be said to be no worse than the emendations of the Peshitta and the A. V. The reading restored in 2 Sam. xvi 12 is simply a homiletic fancy. The 'original reading' alleged in the group of passages consisting of 2 Sam. xx 1 ; 1 Kings xii 16 ; 2 Chron. x 16 is merely a theological reflexion. A similar remark may be made regarding the group, Jer. ii 11 ; Hos. iv 7 ; Ps. cvi 20. In Ezek. viii 17 the obscurity of the heathen rite alluded to has opened the door to the play of fancy. In Hab. i 12 we get a very early and very daring homiletic flight ; that is all. In Zech. ii 12 [8] the meaning of the M. T. and of the 'original reading' is the same in substance, only if we read ויי we introduce a change of speaker between והיה and the end of the verse ; no 'reverence' is saved by the והיה of the M. T. As regards Mal. i 12 and 13 and Job xxxii. 3 the *tikkun* tradition is simply theological comment. Mal. iii 8, 9 is an instance too obscure to be discussed further. Job vii 20 is a difficult passage which the 'original reading' makes more difficult still. Lam. iii 20, according to the M. T., yields satisfactory sense, no other reading has any support from the versions.

The whole evidence leads us back to the play of homiletic fancy on Zech. ii 12 [8] (*Siphre*, *Mechilta*, *Tanhuma*, *Cod. Bab. Pet.*) and to a parallel play of the same fancy on Num. xi 15 ; xii 12 (printed and Yemen *Masorah*). The homiletic commentators found

parallels for these first three passages, and passage was linked with passage until the chain was long. Next the purpose of the list was misunderstood in some quarters and the list was introduced (but by no means invariably¹) into Masoretic works, at first as an appendix². Scholars like Abén Ezra, Ben Asher, and Ben Addereth protested against popular notions regarding *tikkun sopherim*, but the list when once placed among the traditions of *Masorah* continued to be misunderstood and the effects of the mistake are with us to-day.

W. EMERY BARNES.

¹ Not in the Halle MS. of *Ochlah*.

² Ben Asher.

NOTE I. Dr. Schechter has pointed out to me that the number 'eighteen' appears in *Shemoth Rabba* v 5 as the number of the places which the LXX translators 'changed for Ptolemy the king.' Elsewhere these alterations are reckoned at 'thirteen' or 'fifteen,' and not more than *fifteen* instances are ever specified. From this and many other like facts 'eighteen' would seem to be a merely symbolic number.

NOTE II. Dr. Schechter kindly allows me to make use of a MS in his own possession (*Bamidbar*, paper, 23 lines to a page, 10½ in. x 7½ in., foll. 242) of the *Midrash Haggadol*, of which he is preparing an edition ('*M. H.* edited from Yemeh MSS by S. S., Camb. University Press'). It is cited in Table VI as *Mid. Gad.* It agrees in the list (foll. 70 b, 71 a) of *tikkun* passages in contents (but not in order) with *Mechilla*, except that it has 1 Kings xii 16 instead of 2 Sam. xx 1, and that it omits Num. xi 15. This last passage should perhaps be added to the text of *Mid. Gad.* to make up the number *eleven*, for the Midrash *in loco* (fol. 62 a, line 7) seems to base its comment on the reading *בְּרַעַם*. Unlike *Mechilla* the *Midrash Haggadol* adds in its list the 'original reading' of each passage. Like *Yalkut* it cites with the formula, 'Similarly thou sayest' (*בְּיָצֵאֵךָ בְּאֵתָאֵךָ אֵת*).