

Mr. A. S. Loizeaux

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any doctrine." The Prayer Book of the Anglican Church contains readings from the Apocrypha as well as from the Old and New Testaments.

The translation of the Apocrypha made by the Standard Bible Committee was carried out at the request of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Our Episcopal brethren wished to have these books available for public reading in a translation comparable to that of the Old and New Testaments in the Revised Standard Version. Since Episcopalians as well as Presbyterians are among the constituency of the National Council, I have learned from Episcopal brethren that these books have a place in their tradition different from that of my own. I believe this is true also of the Lutherans. Martin Luther included the Apocrypha as "books which are not held equal to the sacred Scriptures, and nevertheless are useful and good to read." As a Presbyterian, I feel that I must not despise works which Lutherans and Episcopalians have found to be of some value.

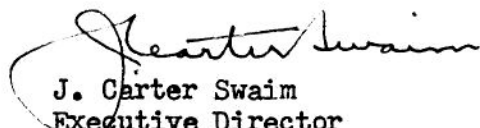
In this respect, official Bibles generally have followed the Anglican rather than the Presbyterian Church. It is significant that all official English Bibles, The Great Bible (1539), The Bishops' Bible (1568), the King James Bible (1611), and the English Revised Version (1881-85) have included the books of the Apocrypha. Until 1827 no edition of the King James Bible ever appeared without the books of the Apocrypha. I have seen many pulpit Bibles of the King James in which they still are found as well as some old family Bibles. This is a reminder that translation of the books of the Apocrypha is a part of our religious heritage as English-speaking persons.

The Revised Standard Version of the Apocrypha was published in 1957 by Thomas Nelson and Sons in a separate volume. The Standard Bible Committee is careful to distinguish between the Holy Scriptures and the Apocrypha. Any editions of the Revised Standard Version which contain the Apocrypha will speak of the Holy Scriptures containing the Old and **New Testaments** plus the books of the Apocrypha. To emphasize the distinction which the Committee makes between the Canonical Scriptures and the Apocrypha, the latter have been bound in the back of the book. Luther included them between the Testaments, and the King James Bible also included them between the Testaments. The Standard Bible Committee feels that their proper place is in an appendix, where they can be consulted by those who wish to refer to them for reasons of history.

The International Journal of Religious Education asked me to write an article about the Apocrypha. This was published in the January issue of 1959 and I am enclosing a copy for your perusal.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,



J. Carter Swaim
Executive Director
Department of the English Bible

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enclosure