

17. The Aramaic tendency to preserve the diphthong without resolving it into a pure vowel has been noted above (# 12).

No. 16. THE ACCENT.

The previous section shows that the accent does not tend to enlarge the affected vowel.

The tone lies, as in the Hebrew, generally on the last syllable, but in the verb, perf. and impv., the accent tends to lie on the second syllable within the stem. This variation from the Hebrew appears in the following comparisons: כְּתִבּוּ vs. כְּתִבּוּ (Arabic katabu), (both proceeding from original katabu); impv. כְּתִבּוּ vs. כְּתִבּוּ (i.e., kutúbu vs. kutúbu). The stress of the accent diminished the preceding vowel and also tended to weaken the following vowel; i.e., the Aramaic did not develop the musical countertones of the Hebrew. This process produced in the Syriac the sloughing off of final vowels, even if long. This appears in Biblical Aramaic in the Qre. כְּתִבּוּ for כְּתִבּוּ (properly 'anta); in the rejection of the final vowel i of the pf. 1st sing. kit^hbet. (with coloring of preceding vowel to e); and in the loss of the vowel of masc. suffix hi with similar effect on preceding vowel, e.g., כְּתִבּוּ.

Apart from the above cases and others which are paralleled in Hebrew, the following cases of penultimate accentuation may be noticed; the ppl. pl. of verbs

כְּתִבּוּ e.g., ; the adverbial (accusative) forms כְּתִבּוּ over, כְּתִבּוּ

all, altogether; and the recession of accent to avoid juxtaposition of two accents (by Hebrew law), e.g., for Ex. 5.15.

No. 17. THE QUESTION OF CONTAMINATIONS FROM THE HEBREW.

There appear certain forms which are Hebraic in character and which have been adjudged to be due to scribal contamination from the Hebrew. But similar "Hebraisms" are found in the papyri (e.g., כְּתִבּוּ for כְּתִבּוּ), hence these cases are not to be amended lightly (as does Marti); e. g., the suffix כְּתִבּוּ for כְּתִבּוּ, Ex. 5.5, etc., or the substitution of the masculine pl. pl. pronoun where the feminine is expected, e.g., כְּתִבּוּ Deut. 7.19, where the Qre כְּתִבּוּ makes the correction.