

PARALLELS IN MODERN LIFE

Some of the coincidences that anyone will come across if he keeps his eyes open for them are extremely striking. A very interesting one can be seen by looking under the letter K in the Twentieth Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, published in 1955 as an extension of The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge. Here the name of "James Anderson Kelso, Presbyterian" is immediately followed by that of "James Leon Kelso, United Presbyterian." One of these men was born in India in 1873, the other in Duluth in 1892. Yet each became a professor of Old Testament in Pittsburgh in a Presbyterian theological seminary, one under what was then called "The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.", the other under "The United Presbyterian Church." James Anderson Kelso devoted himself mainly to textual and linguistic studies; James Leon Kelso has been active in Biblical archaeology. In November 1951 I was interested in reading a newspaper account of the death of Professor James Anderson Kelso, and finding that the account attributed to him the excavation work in Palestine that had been conducted in the previous year by Professor James Leon Kelso. Since that time the two denominations have merged and the two seminaries have coalesced, so that there is now only one Presbyterian theological seminary in Pittsburgh, with one man named Kelso as its professor of Old Testament. Here is a striking case of a rare and unusual coincidence such as would seem to be evidence of a confusion of two different documents, if it were not so easy to prove that it corresponds to actual fact.

Any good history of the wars between Great Britain and Germany in the present century will tell of two interesting events. If the story of two such events had been contained in an ancient writing found a century ago it would then