

Editor's Preface

Eberhard Nestle, D. D., editor of the well-known Stuttgart Pocket Edition of the Greek New Testament, began just before the outbreak of the Great War, at the request of the Württemberg Bible Society, to prepare, a pocket edition of the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint) as well. His death in 1913, however, prevented this object from being fulfilled. In order to preserve a specimen of E. Nestle's work, his unfinished edition of the Book of Jeremiah, with parallel Greek and Hebrew texts, was rounded off and published by his son, Studienrat Erwin Nestle, D. D. Ph. D., in collaboration with Pastor Johannes Dahse. The Württemberg Bible Society did not, however, abandon the idea of publishing a pocket edition of the Septuagint, but sought for an additional editor. Thus it came about that in the last year of the War, 1917 to 1918, I agreed to take over the task of editing this pocket edition. By then I had already for a long time been engaged in Septuagint research, having been for nearly ten years Director of studies in the Septuagint at the "Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften" at Göttingen. While occupying this position, I had the task of producing a large critical edition of the Septuagint. As it was, however, impossible, owing to the outbreak of the Great War, to make the necessary completions to the collection of photographs of the Manuscripts, the editing of this large work had to be temporarily postponed. Hence, the idea of producing a small critical edition instead of the larger one found the approval of the Göttingen Septuagint Commission. The post-war period brought all kinds of obstacles in its train, and it was not until 1922 that a specimen section of this small edition was published, by commission of the Department of Septuagint Research: "Das Buch Ruth griechisch, als Probe einer kritischen Handausgabe der Septuaginta herausgegeben von Alfred Rahlfs". After this had appeared, I set to work upon the preparation of an edition of Genesis, which was published in 1926 under the title of "Septuaginta Societatis Scientiarum Göttingensis auctoritate edidit Alfred Rahlfs". This volume, as well as