

THE REVISION

OF THE VULGATE

A REPORT.



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In May 1907 it was announced in the public press that the Pope had determined to prepare for a critical revision of the Latin Bible. The need for such a revision is well known. In spite of all the care which had been bestowed upon the



His Holiness, Pope Pius X.

preparation of the present authentic edition published by Pope Clement VIII in 1592, it has been recognised from the first that the text would have to be revised some day. Generations have passed by, however, without the realisation of this expectation. It has, indeed, been sometimes urged as a reproach upon the authorities of the Catholic Church that

nothing had been done in so important a work: and in this, which is preeminently an age of critical examination, it would certainly appear proper that well recognised principles of textual criticism should be applied to establish the best Latin text of the Holy Scriptures. Private individuals have done something to prepare the way for such a revision and



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they have received thanks and other marks of approval from the authorities; but no official action had been taken in the matter until His Holiness, Pope Pius X, announced his intention of preparing for the revision.

The present stage in the work of revision was offered to the Benedictines, and it was accepted by the representatives of the various Congregations of the Order in the spring of 1907. Although fully recognising that the work must necessarily be arduous, lengthy and costly, it was felt to be impossible to refuse so honourable a task. Abbot Gasquet,