A Glossary of Wulfstan's Homilies by Loring Holmes Dodd

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A Glossary of Wulfstan's Homilies. By LORING HOLMES DODD (Yale Studies in English, xxxv). New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1908. 8vo. 244 pp.

This volume, one of the 'Yale Studies in English,' furnishes Napier's edition of Wulfstan's *Homilies* (Berlin, 1883) with a glossary. We are given the meanings and the various grammatical forms of the words which occur in the editor's critical text only, many interesting expressions which occur in the variant readings being excluded. The glossary scarcely gives the requisite amount of help, as whole phrases and idioms, which are likely to cause difficulty, are left unexplained. It is also vitiated by the compiler's adoption of the antiquated method of dividing verbs into transitive and intransitive, all verbs that are not followed by the accusative being regarded as intransitive. The more logical method would have been to show what verbs require a noun or a noun-equivalent to complete their meaning, which could be done by specifying what case or cases those verbs govern. Verbs such as *helpe* (*his sylfes*) 39/15, *helpan* (*georne earmum mannum*) 119/5, (*heora āgenum lustum*) *fullēodan* 106/2, (*ālc ðāra ðe*) *ābyrgð* (*blōdes*) 136/24, (*dēaðes*) *ābyrgan* 149/19, (*ālcas unrihtes*) *geswīcan* 142/11, (*men*) *gelēfað* (*tō hwōn Drihtnes sylfes ārendgewrites*) 206/4, (*men ne woldon*) *gelēfan* (*Noes worde*) 206/16, *hlōgen* (*men his worda*) 206/11 etc., which require a noun (sometimes two) or a noun-equivalent in the genitive or dative as a complement, are not logically intransitive. Here and there the meanings of the words are not clearly defined, e.g. *strec* 105/34 means 'mighty' not 'fierce'; *æræt* 135/2 may mean 'eating too soon'; *unstenc* 139/8 is 'evil odour' not 'stench'; *āmelnyss* 139/18 'sloth' not 'false dealing' (see *B.-T. Supplement*); *ofðrihte* 145/4 'oppress' not 'thrust'; *āmolsnian* 147/29 (applied to the eyes) 'decay,' 'loose power' not 'rot'; *gemanian* 148/16 'claim' not 'remind'; and *cōm* in the sentence *hwær cōm ðisse worlde wela* means 'go' or 'become' not 'come.' The various senses of *ðing* are not given. Words like *bred(n)* 'board' or 'tablet,' dat. *brede* 146/22, and *sēon*, 3 sg. pr. *sihð* 147/28 are omitted. There are also some errors in analysis, *hēanra* 148/10 is the comp. of *hēan* 'poor' not of *hēah*; *witod* 151/17 is the past participle of *witian*, 'decree' used as an adj. and not another form of the adv. *witodlice*; *āðere* 34/7 is acc. sing. fem. not dat. sing. fem. of *āðor* (*āhwæðer*); in the sentence '*ðæt gē ēow tō gamene fēonda āfillað*' 132/20 ('strike down') *fēonda* is an acc. pl. form; and *gebyrge* 119/4 is the dat. of **gebyrge* or **gebierge*, a neut. *ja*-stem and not of *gebeorg*. Misprints are numerous. The glossary throws no new light on the many obscure words found in Old English prose and poetry.

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