

Almost entire lack of discussion of the general meaning of the sentence seems to show that the editors are agreed in giving it this obvious interpretation, whether they read *si*, or omit it.

Thus Bennett, who retains *si*, in his note on this passage renders *quam si* 'instead of'—*i.e.*, 'How would old age be less a burden to them, if they were in their eight-hundredth year instead of in their eightieth?'

This brings out the meaning of the passage exactly; the difficulty is that *quam si* does not mean 'instead of.' As a matter of fact, the addition of *si* produces a conditional clause of comparison; and when this type of construction is introduced by *quam si*, a suppressed apodosis is regularly involved¹—*i.e.*, 'How would old age be less a burden to them, if they were in their eight-hundredth year than (it would be) if they were in their eightieth?'

This, of course, is entirely unsatisfactory; for it intimates that the people in question have not yet attained to a ripe old age.² Omitting *si*, everything is plain: 'How would old age be less a burden to them, if they were in their eight-hundredth year rather than in their eightieth?'

It will be noted that 'rather than' in this last rendering is synonymous with Bennett's 'instead of'; both these phrases represent *quam*, but not *quam si*.

Therefore, as being in one respect the 'lectio difficilior,' and as fitting exactly the general meaning of the passage, the last phrase of the sentence should be written without *si*.

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¹ See *University of California Publications in Classical Philology*, V. 191 sqq.

² Schütz is quoted as suspecting that the original might have read *quam cum*, which would satisfy all demands of the passage admirably. But no such reading is reported.

³ The use of *quam* in the sense '(rather) than' is, of course, well attested, and not infrequent. Its entrance here is specially unobtrusive, because of the comparative idea which figures earlier in the sentence (note *minus*).

CORRIGENDVM.

IN the *Classical Quarterly* for January, 1925, p. 5, last line of note 1, for 'Posidonius' read 'Crantor.'