Among DSIa variants somewhat summarily treated as mere copyists' errors or "simplifications" are the additional waw prefixed in a considerable number of instances to verbs and the sporadic variation of tenses. The present study is concerned with a number of irregularities in the use of the consecutive tenses in DSIa which result from these two tendencies. These irregularities have their analogies in various books of the MT, but not in the parallel passages of Isaiah. The purpose of the present study is to adduce, albeit very tentatively, a number of considerations, based on the singularities in the use of the consecutive tenses in DSIa, which may be relevant to the solution of linguistic and textual problems in the OT. The syntactical phenomena touched upon hardly justify conclusions as to their age. That some of them have affinity with so-called Mishnaic Hebrew is tolerably certain but, in view of the fact that little is known of the earlier stages of development of that idiom, it would be hazardous to speculate beyond this point 1).

§ 1. The co-ordination of verbal clauses by waw-conjunctive.

The profuse use of the waw-conjunctive is a characteristic of DSIa. In itself it is probably one aspect of a general tendency towards a more prosaic style, perhaps in many cases hardly a conscious tendency 2). When, however, two or more verbal clauses which are asyndetic in the MT become thus united by the waw-conjunctive, constructions result which may combine either synonyms or verbs which would normally require a consecutive construction because the relation

between them is one of dependency. In the latter case anomalous constructions might arise quite undesignedly. Bearing this in mind it may be possible, by restoring the asyndeton, to recover the original constructions in some instances in which an irregular construction has hitherto been attributed to the influence of Aramaic or late-Hebrew or has been consigned to the residue of inexplicable constructions. In other words: in these cases it need not necessarily be assumed that the tense of the verb is due to Aramaic or late-Hebrew influence or that the construction is inexplicable, rather must the verb construction first be tested by eliminating the waw-conjunctive. Thus, in Is. ix 7 (Moš bimraisāl) would at once assume a normal form. In xl 24 the DSIa reading 'uni bo' at (>) boha thus regularises the anomalous reading in the MT. A similar case is the DSIa reading in xlii 4 for the unusual 'aḥam in the MT, into which L. KöHLER, for example, was constrained to read the meaning 'ich werde geben und werde geben'.

We may illustrate our point by examples from DSIa. In the following the additional waw in the DSIa readings yields a combination of synonymous actions or states: vii 16-17 ... 'atma ... tapeh (+) r ... kahil ... xxvii 29 ... 'atma ... ma'alah ... xlv 2 ... 'atam ... hahirim (+) 'atam ... xliii 4 for the unusual 'aḥam in the MT, into which L. KöHLER, for example, was constrained to read the meaning 'ich werde geben und werde geben'.

§ 2. The perfect with waw-conjunctive for the imperfect with waw-consecutive.

The perfect with waw-conjunctive occurs in a very small number of instances in DSIa for the normal MT usage to employ the imperfect with waw-consecutive. Thus, in xxxvi 21 is found the anomalous ... 'ahirat ha-'et ha-naata, which is identical, except for the place of the subject, with the construction in 2 Ki. xviii 36—a construction characterised by STADE as 'barbarous'. 1 Similarly DSIa has in lxvi 2

1) Deuterijesaja, Giessen, 1923, p. 75.
2) ZAW, vol. 6 (1886), p. 183.