

Mr. Newell's utterances. He declared them false and mischievous, a violation of the ninth commandment, and something deserving the condemnation of intelligent men. I had hoped that similar protests would be uttered in the pulpits and papers of Toronto by ministers of the various denominations, including of course the denomination to which President Harper belongs ; so that there might be no need for me to speak. But a week and a half has passed, and all seem to remain silent. I shall therefore take upon myself a task which I would gladly have left to others.

In replying to Mr. Newell I desire to speak in a spirit of perfect candor, fairness and brotherliness. I shall not speak as a Unitarian. I shall not consciously speak as a sectarian in any respect. My aim will be simply to represent, advocate, and, so far as I am able, defend, free, untrammelled and reverent biblical scholarship, that is to say, those methods and those results of Biblical study which are accepted by the leading scholars of every important Christian denomination.

I have listened to a considerable number of Mr. Newell's Massey Hall lectures, and have obtained reports of all the rest ; and I have also come into somewhat intimate connection with his work in another city. So that I do not speak without first-hand knowledge as to his Bible teaching and his theological views. I do not for a moment doubt his earnestness and sincerity. With his often expressed desire for a revival of religion I am in most earnest sympathy, only so that it be a religion that will bless and not blight. I do not doubt that he believes himself to be doing God's service, and to be guided by the Holy Ghost. This, however, does not necessarily signify much to anybody but himself, since we all know that nearly every fanatic in the world makes a similar claim to be doing God's will and to be under the divine guidance. Even our poor Doukhobour friends in Manitoba believed that they were divinely guided on that pilgrimage a few months ago which came so near costing them all their lives, and we know that Mr. Dowie, in Chicago, claims with the greatest earnestness, and with seeming sincerity, that he is specially guided by the Holy Ghost in his strange movement which is finding so large a following in that city. Of course, this does not show that there is no such thing as a real and beneficent divine guidance, but it does show that such supposed guidance divorced from intelligence is a dangerous thing, and quite as likely to do harm as good.

For one I cannot but believe that we all have much more ground for trusting the divine guidance of the great and devout scholars of the Christian world, who for a hundred years have been