

statements concerning them, He is but expressing the popular belief of His day ; and that belief was sadly deceptive, as we can abundantly testify.

Declarations like these are amazing. They are made, moreover, with an over-confidence and a dogmatism of assertion which finds its parallel only in the assurances of the Tempter of old, when he allayed the fears of Eve with the words, "Ye shall not surely die;" "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." As dogmatic assertion, without proof, was the platform on which Satan erected his battery of old against the Word of the Lord, so also is it the platform on which he now builds his parapet and erects his guns for a similar assault.

There is one point, however, in which the mode of procedure pursued, by Satan now, differs from that which he adopted in Eden. It is not serpents that are now employed to do his destructive work. He does it by means of scholars and ecclesiastics of deservedly high repute. Through them he imposes upon the credulity of the unsuspecting, and causes them to be involved in the meshes of the same net in which their own feet have been taken. And how great that credulity is ! How many there are who seem to think that Satan can never approach them in anything like an assumed form ! They imagine, apparently, that he would come to them with a letter of introduction in his hand, saying, "This is Satan : it is his intention to take away your life." They never think of the possibility of his exercising a sinister influence over them through their most intimate friend, or even through a beloved pastor ; through the pages of some fascinating book, or the contents of some private letter. Yet, it is by such covert means that he often injects his deadly poison, and effects the destruction of so many of our race.

Let me not, however, be misunderstood. I have no intention of affirming that men like these Higher Critics, who are partially under the influence and guidance of the Evil One, are, therefore, ungodly or reprobate men. By no means ; no more than Eve was an ungodly woman, when she listened to the voice of the charmer, and involved herself and her descendants after her in irretrievable ruin. Some of these men are men of genuine piety and high spiritual attainments. They would scorn to occupy, consciously, the position of an ally of the Arch Enemy of our souls. They believe themselves to be, one and all, the enlightened Apostles of the Truth. But, on this account, they are the more efficient agents for the execution of Satan's work. These are his chosen apostles for the propagation of error, and the inauguration of every departure from the paths of righteousness. As men, we may love them in other respects ; but we cannot but hate and abhor their errors and their sins, whereby they greatly dishonour God and do injury to their fellow men ; and we cannot but warn all men against them, as we would against poison or pestilence, or other