

Illustrations of the chaos produced by determinism against the supernatural in the manipulation of Scripture are plentiful as applause at a prince's wit. At present, however, one will suffice, and that shall be the result of Professor Huxley's amateurish excursion into the land of German criticism. He is generally supposed to be a sound reasoner, but as Dr. Wace says, in the May number of *The Nineteenth Century*, "What seems to me so astonishing about Professor Huxley's articles is not the wildness of their conclusions, but the rottenness of their ratiocination." "It is not, in fact, reasoning at all, but mere presumption and guess work, inconsistent, moreover, with all experience and common sense." How could it be otherwise with the study of any subject by such a method? What would the Professor say of any student who came to study biology, but only on condition that his self-determined conclusions should be affirmed. All who know this great teacher of biology can imagine the look and tone with which he would be welcomed. This then is the lower criticism, not only because it violates all correct methods of reasoning, but also because it leads to glaring inconsistencies. These men try to take from the Bible that with which it is saturated, and deprive the Christ of those claims He constantly reaffirmed, and then they go into raptures over both the Book and the Man. Spinoza, Pecaute, Fichte, Richter, Strauss, Baur, Rénan, Huxley, wherever they may differ, all agree in perverting the words of Christ, and then extolling the Speaker!

It is also the lower criticism because it is such an utter failure. This is stated by the Christian representative in *Robert Elsmere*, and his statement is not refuted. Dr. Wace also reminds us that the German critics, Hase, Strauss, Baur, Hausrath, Keim, have all made the attempt to explain the records of the New Testament by natural causes, and have all failed. The *Saturday Review* characteristically has it, "As for the huge labours which have been occupied in proving that St. Matthew copied St. Mark, St. Mark St. Matthew, St. Luke both or neither, or that all three copied each other, they are to any one who knows what literary criticism means, simply puerile."

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