

proficiency: so the writers of the Scriptures were men whose spiritual apprehension, through constant practice, became most acute and full. And as in rare moments of human fellowship two friends may approach each other with such perfect sympathy that without words, one soul may understand the other; so, only much more perfectly, "Holy men of old" drew near to God with such full sympathy that God's thoughts became their thoughts.

That there are many other difficulties may be frankly admitted. The text may not always be certain, the translation may not always be correct, the meaning may not always be clear, or the narrative may not always seem to be in accordance with modern ethical, scientific or historical knowledge. But, are there not difficulties in every department of human inquiry concerning which the deepest thinker can only guess an explanation? So it may be with the Bible. For the solution of these difficulties we must patiently wait, and, in the meantime, if the Book but lead one to Christ, is not its great function fulfilled?

The evidence which the Bible itself supplies consists of those statements in which the writers tell us they were promised spiritual guidance; of the intimations which they give that these promises were actually fulfilled; and the authority which they consequently claim for their own writings of one another.

The value of these statements is of the very highest order, for they form the only direct evidence we can possibly have upon the subject. I do not mean to say that by quoting, say, 2 Timothy 3: 16, the whole discussion is at an end, because "We should demand no less, and we require no more," but I do hold, that the full bearing of all the Scriptural statements, taken together, combine to form one argument, and the strongest argument, in support of the inspiration of Scripture.

Principal Cave and others reject this argument altogether, on the ground that to use Scripture in support of its own inspiration, is to beg the question. "You require us," they say, "to receive the Bible as true because it is inspired, and