

student of to-day, of which our fathers knew and might be content to know little or nothing. Two facts only I name to establish the proposition that there is ground for inquiry: The publication of the Biblical articles in the ninth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and the fact that *Lux Mundi* is in its eleventh edition, mainly because of the essay on inspiration.

X If it be answered, as well it may, that all these things do not concern the simple Christian who reverently reads his Bible to find the way to heaven, and that ministers will do well to make that the main factor in their consideration of this matter, the reply at once must be, Perfectly true: it cannot be too strongly insisted on. That is the first truth in this investigation of ours concerning the Bible, and it will be the last; about that there is no controversy. But it must be added that in this, as in all else, the minister must lead his people, and to this end must have his own ideas clear on a number of questions he does not bring directly before them; that further, a large proportion of his most intelligent hearers keenly feel a number of the difficulties I have hinted at, and if the minister does not know precisely where he stands in this matter, he will not be a leader at all, or only the blind leader of the blind, both falling into the ditch. There is abundant proof to-day that leadership is needed; men are crying out for it, and many ministers are only regretting their inability to give it as they would.

You do not expect me to lay down any dogma or formulary on this subject. There is none such. In the undivided Church of the early centuries, the Anglican Church, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church, there is a notable absence of definition as to the exact doctrine of inspiration, as if the Church had been guided by the Spirit of God to abstain from formulating theories which might prove to be untenable. Neither do you expect from me a personal confession of faith which could be of no importance to any one but myself, useful here only as a mark for subsequent speakers to practise shooting at. But I understand that I am asked to offer some suggestions as to the present state of opinion upon a subject as to which even such a writer as Professor Banks states that additional light and