

lofty and dogmatic style to say, with Dr. Briggs: "In the field of scholarship the question is settled. It only remains for the ministry and people to accept it, and adapt themselves to it;" but we respectfully decline on your mere dictum to believe that the Jewish race was composed of a people so dull and unreflective that they had no memory of or veneration for the past. No, we shall maintain, until the contrary is infallibly proved, that the Bible contains at least as credible and correct a history of Israel as the record of other nations are, and that the traditions of the race were as scrupulously guarded, and as intelligently handed down as those of other peoples. Nay, more, the Jews, believing that their Scriptures were the Oracles of God and that they were their divinely appointed keepers, preserved them with passionate fidelity,\* depositing them in the innermost and holiest apartment of the Sanctuary. There Moses caused the Torah Roll to be laid up, and there 700 years afterwards, it was discovered by Hilkiah in the days of Josiah. The testimony of Philo and Josephus is just what we should expect with regard to such a people as the Jews were, and are to this day. Josephus, who was but thirty years old at the death of St. Paul, speaking of the whole volume, which we call the Old Testament, says: "Although so many ages have now elapsed since these books were written, no one yet has ever dared either to

\*Prof. W. R. Smith, in "The Old Testament in the Jewish Church," referring to the fidelity of the Jews in preserving and transmitting sacred text of the O. T., says, "The Jews, from the time when their national life was extinguished, and their whole soul concentrated upon the preservation of the monuments of the past, devoted most strict and punctilious attention to the exact transmission of the received text, down to the smallest peculiarity of spelling, and even certain irregularities of writing," (p. 70).