

THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE HUMAN ELEMENT THEREIN.

As the question of the inspiration of the Scriptures has been so much before the minds of Christians, and indeed of all men, in countries where Christianity is professed, and is a vital question for every soul, I would desire to notice one point in connection with it, because on it even those who are accounted orthodox have used very equivocal language. It is what is called the "human element" in it. That there is a human element is evident, for it is men who are inspired, men whose language and whose minds have been used. I say, whose minds have been used; for the apostle tells of speaking with his understanding; but the expression is used to signify *also* the defects and errors to which man's mind is liable. Now this last means man's mind left to itself, that is, *not* inspired: a very different thing from inspiring man's mind.

The reason I notice it is, that the human element is of infinite price to us, the very character of the grace shown to us and conferred on us. God's favour is not only shown *to* man, but *in* man. In the blessed Lord—the Centre and Effectuator of all grace to us—this is evident, though this is much more than inspiration, for He is a Person, the Word made flesh, yet it characterizes all God's ways with us. It is what is divine in man. It has a human element—birth, hunger, thirst, sorrow, suffering. His compassion moved by what He saw, growth in wisdom and stature, dependence in prayer, obedience, temptation (sin apart), and, when He had given Himself up to it, death (for