

death of the Apostle John were *such old writings* as to be accepted the world over, in Syria and in Rome, as the standard biographies which "contained all things concerning our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Already these four gospels—just these and no others—although written in different countries by different persons and at different times, had been so long recognized as Christian Scriptures that they could by heretic and orthodox be used in combination as the complete, undoubted record of the events related in them.

Thus have the cobwebs of speculation and the ingenious theories of criticism been brushed aside, and voices have cried out from the very generation which was born while John the Beloved was yet alive, saying: "Your Bible is our Bible, and our Bible was the Bible of the Apostles!"

III.—VOCATION—AVOCATION—VACATION.

BY PROFESSOR THEODORE W. HUNT, PH.D., LITT.D., PRINCETON,
N. J.

VOCATION.

"THE latest gospel in this world," says the incisive Carlyle, "is know thy work and do it;" or, as he elsewhere expresses it in equally emphatic form: "Think it not thy business this of knowing thyself; know what thou canst work at, and work at it like a Hercules"—which, indeed, is the same as saying with Paul to Timothy: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them."

Every man has, or should have, a vocation, or calling, to which he is summoned by the clear voice of conscience, and to which he is committed with all the energy of his physical, mental, and moral personality. As Archbishop Trench teaches us, we have in the very word "vocation" the embodied idea of a Divine appointment; and, as God calls us to our work, so will He guide, and strengthen, and bless us in its daily execution.

The frequent recurrence in Scripture of this providential view of our work in life is eminently suggestive, as it lifts that work at once above every low conception that might be taken of it and rests it upon the lofty plane of conscience, and duty, and character, and spiritual law. Hence, the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets were called of God to special service in his Church. Paul was "called to be an apostle," as the people of God are "called to be saints," while every man is solemnly enjoined to "abide in the calling wherein he is called." This life-work to which we are summoned is termed a "high calling," a "holy calling," a "heavenly calling," of which we are to be "worthy," and which by our faithfulness and devotedness we are to "make sure." Moreover, whom God calls he qualifies, so that no man needs a