

When, standing on the Mount of Olives, with the Holy City at His feet, He would quote a prophecy, the fulfilment of which would mark for His followers that its impending doom had at last arrived, He desires them to "flee to the mountains," when they "shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the holy place."

Are we to suppose that in these and other references to the Old Testament, our Lord was only using what are called *ad hominem* arguments, or talking down to the level of popular ignorance, which He did not himself share?

Not to point out the inconsistency of this supposition with His character as a perfectly sincere religious teacher, it may be observed that in the Sermon on the Mount He carefully marks off those features of the popular Jewish religion which He rejects, in a manner which makes it certain that had He not himself believed in the historic truth of the events and the persons to which He thus refers, He must have said so!

But did He then share a popular belief which our higher knowledge has shown to be popular ignorance, and was He mistaken as to the worth of those Scriptures to which He so often and so confidently appealed?

There are those who profess to bear the Christian name, and who do not shrink from saying as much as this. But they will find it difficult to persuade mankind that, if He could be mistaken on a matter of