

But while confident that nothing really inconsistent with its inspiration is likely to be established, let us be careful in laying down what is really inconsistent with it. Much of the disquiet about the Higher Criticism is caused by the denunciations of good men who think that holding by "the old paths" means holding by the old mistakes as well, and there are indications in the growing agreement of scholars that some things which these would consider dangerous to the Bible may possibly be found in the ultimate "residuum of fact."

In pointing out these let me make clear my object. I am not at all advocating the acceptance of these positions, nor even suggesting that many of them will be established. I only want the reader to face the question for himself without unreasonable panic or unreasonable concessions. Suppose these positions should be established by criticism, should we have reason to fear for the credit of the Bible?

Suppose criticism should prove to us that the Pentateuch is an editing of old Mosaic records, or that it is of composite authorship, not all the work of a single writer; or if it should establish satisfactorily that what we call Isaiah xl.-lxvi. is really the prophecy of a "Great Unknown," whose work was by ancient scribes appended to that of Isaiah, as the