A REPLY TO

MR. NEWELL'S MASSEY HALL ATTACK UPON THE HIGHER CRITICISM.

I propose this morning to reply to the attack made by Mr. Newell at his Bible class in Massey Hall a week ago last Tuesday evening, upon the Higher Criticism of the Bible, upon all ministers and theological teachers who believe in the same, and especially upon President Harper of the University of Chicago. All of you who were present or who read the reports in the papers know how severe the attack was--going the length, as it did, of declaring that the higher criticism is the work of the devil, that all ministers and religious teachers who accept it are wolves in sheep's clothing, and especially that President Harper, one of the most eminent living Biblical scholars, is doing more in the service of infidelity than any other man in America, more than even Mr. Robert Ingersoll did.

I imagine I hear some of you saying, "Such words as these of Mr. Newell are so extreme and so manifestly fanatical that no attention should be paid to them." Under ordinary circumstances I grant this would be true. If they had been spoken privately, or by any pastor in his own pulpit, unwarranted and unjust as they still would be, I for one should pass them by in silence. But they were uttered in a great public meeting which claimed to be wholly unpartizan and unsectarian, a meeting at which there were many present from almost all the churches of the city, including a large number connected with the denomination (the Baptist) in which President Harper is an honored leader. Under such circumstances, an answer to the charges made seems to be imperative, unless we are willing that a grave and far-reaching wrong should be done to the cause of Biblical scholarship, and to good and eminent men of all denominations who are giving their lives to the promotion of such scholarship.

I am glad to learn that the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in London, Ont., protested last Sunday very strongly against