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**THE BIBLE and
MODERN CRITICISM**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Your correspondents on this subject are dealing with three distinct questions—(1) Whether the manifesto of the 38 clergymen is well timed; (2) whether the bases on which their conclusions rest are sound; and (3) whether these conclusions themselves are right. On the first question I do not presume to speak. Upon the second I wish to point out that the Church of England does not place "the Church" above the Bible as these clergymen do. Article xix. defines "the Church." Article xx. defines its powers, qualifying them thus: "And yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain anything that is contrary to God's word written, neither may it expound one place of Scripture that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree anything against the same, so," &c. Articles xxi. and xxxiv. speak in the same sense. Nor does Article vi. teach otherwise. As Lord Grimthorpe's second letter points out, it merely recites that the Church has always distinguished between the canonical and the apocryphal books, and then proceeds to specify them both. Nothing can thus be clearer than that the Church of England places the Bible above "the Church," and gives it an authority which is independent of the Church.