tribution toward the settlement of the question. The writer of the present paper need therefore make no apology for endeavouring to discuss the points raised to the best of his ability, with the object of eliciting such information as may guide him and others in coming to a conclusion.

It is not with English critics that these papers are specially concerned, it is with the writings of Wellhausen and Kuenen. For it is on the ground of their general consent, and on the general consent of other German critics who, while differing from their conclusions, accept their principles of analysis, that our assent to the theory of the later origin of the Pentateuch is asked. When we understand what those methods are, and what their results, we shall be in a better position to judge how far we are bound to accept all or any of them. As to the results, Wellhausen and Kuenen believe Deuteronomy to be a forgery of the reign of Josiah. What is known as the Priestly Code, including the whole of Leviticus except chapters xvii.-xxvi., they suppose to have originated after the exile, while the Hexateuch in its present shape is said to have been the work of a "redactor" of a somewhat later date. It is quite true, as Professor Driver tells us, that to disprove the doctrines of these two writers is not to establish the Mosaic origin of the Pentateuch, or the accuracy of every statement in the Books of Chronicles. But we are asked to abandon our belief in the Pentateuch as a contemporary record on the strength of the statements of these writers, and of others working on similar lines. If their methods appear on examination to be faulty, and the results reached improbable, we shall be justified in at least suspecting their authority.

We must bear in mind that even before we come to consider the arguments by which these writers support their hypotheses we are confronted by certain grave difficulties of an *a priori* character. The first of these is the utter arbitrariness of the method itself. Statements are made absolutely without the slightest shadow of an attempt at proof. Instances of this have been given already, and more will be given presently. Now, this question of method is an important one. When