

It is bold, but it is not correct, and cannot be sustained.

A VITAL QUESTION.

The difference, even as presented in this declaration, with all its skilful effort to cover up and smooth it down, is immense, and is at the very foundation of Christian faith and life, viz., What is the Word of God?

The giving forth of such a "declaration" surely justifies enquiry and demands discussion. The editor's statement greatly increases such necessity. The Church is under very urgent need to ask the question, Is this "declaration" a proper and sufficient settlement of the issues involved in the questions raised in this discussion? Speaking broadly, the question is whether the views maintained by George Adam Smith in the book referred to are "evangelically sound," and such as may properly be taught in Victoria University to our Theological students? It is important that the people who support the University and expect to have these students become their ministers should know, at least, some of the things there maintained. Three out of many questionable positions may be given as samples: (a) That the first eleven chapters of Genesis are made up of myths and legends and that reliable history in the Old Testament does not begin till we reach the books of Samuel. (b) That the Pentateuch was not written by Moses, but by some unknown writer or writers near the time of the exile, and for the purpose of maintaining the pretensions and authority of the priests, who palmed it off on the people as the work of Moses. (c) That the Hebrews were polytheistic in their faith until the time of the great prophets.