

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES: HOW AFFECTED BY RECENT CRITICISMS.

NO. IV.

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RECENT criticism has busied itself especially with questions as to the accuracy of the Bible in its scientific statements, and its integrity and veracity as a history, reaching conclusions more or less radical, but even in their moderate form seriously reducing its trustworthiness in both particulars. That no grave peril to the Christian faith is to be apprehended from this quarter is, however, earnestly maintained by many of our comrades in that faith. The matters involved, as they remind us, affect the human form and not the divine elements of the revelation; they belong to its accidents and not to its essence; its motives being religious and ethical, and not in any sense historic or scientific—to teach us “not how the heaven goeth, but how to go to heaven”; and, furthermore, our faith rests on Christ, and not on a book. Others cannot so easily poultice their fears. It seems to them that facts and tendencies already manifest discredit these assurances, even if the constitution of the human mind did not forbid their acceptance. To map out the human as discriminate from the divine, that in surrendering the one the integrity of the other may not be invaded, seems a venturesome experiment for purblind creatures, who are forbidden even to attempt to distinguish and pull up the “tares,” lest in their ignorance they root up also the wheat with them. Our Lord himself, divine in nature, was human in form. How long would His divine authority survive His human veracity being gone? Can divine holiness be counted less scrupulous than human morality, in its utterances or agencies? Shall we assent to the insinuation that He who is “the Truth” has resorted to “pious frauds” to accomplish His ends; that He who has said “no lie is from the truth” has employed “forgers of lies” as his elect representatives:

It is evident, as stated, that the ultimate end of Scripture is religious and not secular. But while its peculiar mission is not to teach science