Exile is now usually given. The succession of prophets beginning with Amos thus went on side by side with the growth of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is to this late date for the recension denoted by P mos. opposition has been made. Much of what has been said above as to the divisions into recensions applies to this question of date. It does not touch the fact of Inspiration or the religious value of the Old Testament. It may affect our view of Jewish history: it cannot affect our view of the supernatural or of the long preparation for the Christ. The Books themselves contain the date and the problem: the true solution of the problem is, as it were, part of the message of the Books themselves. But the history of the Jews, and the Books which bear that message must be studied as other histories and other books.

Of course it is often said and oftener still implied that this critical view (and criticism in this sense does not imply any condemnation or hostility but merely study) is the result of a dislike of the supernatural and is due to assumptions hostile to religion and arbitrary in kind. But as Dr. Driver (in the preface to his recent commentary upon Genesis, page LXI) says of these results, so far as they apply to Genesis, "not one of the conclusions reached in the preceding pages is arrived at upon arbitrary or *a priori* grounds: not one of them depends upon any denial, or even doubt, of the supernatural or of the miraculous: they are, one and all, forced upon us by the facts." None, to my mind, who read this work of his carefully can doubt that his labour is inspired by true devotion: few, I think, would rise from the reading without a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures; it would be cause for regret surely if our church in Canada were to shut itself out from any share in such study of the written Word of God.

I hope, my Lord, that what I have said has made my position clear: none, I am sure, cherishes more deeply than I do, continuity with the past: none is, I hope, readier to hear the voice of the church, but I also