

Not at all. That was the theory woven with great ingenuity and learning upon German spindles some few years ago, but this treasure from the graves of Egypt has put it in its grave.

These are our gospels word for word without one sentence taken from any "Gospel of Peter" or any other apocryphal gospel, however ancient. Tatian changes at times the chronological order of the gospel story for reasons of harmony, and sometimes makes slight verbal transpositions for the sake of improving the combined narrative; but, so far as this new discovery discloses, there is no hint of irreverence in any of these slight modifications of the gospel text—especially as there is no evidence that Tatian intended this work to supersede the four gospels, but only to be a companion to them as our modern harmonies. Indeed, the most surprising thing in this discovery is the proof which it affords that the early Christians were extremely careful of their sacred Scriptures. If in Tatian's work originally there were sly, minute changes in order to sustain his heretical views, then the *fact that these have all been carefully sifted out of the existing text shows how carefully those early Christians guarded their holy writings*; but there is insufficient evidence that Tatian meddled as much with the text as has been formerly imagined. It only needed a suspicion that he was a heretic, and a few striking omissions and minute changes in his work, to brand it as untrustworthy. It is suggestive that neither the names of the thieves on the cross, nor the names of any of those who were healed by Jesus, were given in this harmony, nor any other such item which Justin Martyr and, no doubt, Tatian himself, believed, but which were not found in the authorized text. This manuscript proves that Tatian stuck so close to the text of the four gospels that he was even led into undue repetition at times because of his anxiety to preserve everything which each evangelist had given. This has been called a "patchwork gospel," which, if it ever could be examined, would illustrate exactly the methods of the anonymous compilers of our present Pentateuch, who, according to the left wing of the "Higher Critics," had before them various documents of various ages which they patched together rather unintelligently and dishonestly; for they not only used verbal thread of their own manufacture to sew together the patches which they snatched from those venerable documents, but they mutilated those documents, changing their statements because of their doctrinal bias, and adding to them on their own authority large patches of their own manufacture—false statements of things that had never occurred, and which they knew had never occurred. But the discovery of the Diatessaron has cast dark discredit upon the theories which expected to find a mutilation of the four gospels with various emendations and brilliant additions by the heretical editor. True, Tatian omitted some things from his "harmony." This is the worst that is charged against him by ancient writers, but if that were all which the critics charged against the compilers