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ALLEGED SELF-CONTRADICTIONS OF THE BIBLE.

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WE have already considered a few of those alleged instances of inconsistency and self-contradiction by which men have attempted to justify themselves in refusing to accept the Bible as a revelation from God. No very formidable difficulty has been encountered thus far; but we have not got to the end of the list, and it is quite possible that we may yet find some passages harder to be reconciled with each other than any that have been heretofore examined. Let us proceed therefore in the spirit of humility, and dependence upon the promised aid of the Holy Spirit, to the examination of some others. We begin with

DAVID'S NUMBERING OF THE PEOPLE.

"And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah."—2 Sam. xxiv. 1. *"And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."*—1 Chron. xxi. 1.

This certainly looks more formidable than anything which we have come to yet. What is attributed to the Lord in the first of these passages, is just as explicitly attributed to Satan in the second; and the question which is likely to suggest itself to such as have not critically studied the Scriptures is this, How can a thing be done by the Lord and by Satan at the same time? It is true, we can readily understand how one can do a thing mediately and another do it immediately. We can easily under-