

Now, what shall we say of these leading Christian scholars of all lands? Because they tell us the truth about the composition and authorship of the first five or six books of the Old Testament, shall we declare, as Mr. Newell does, that they have entered into a conspiracy of infidelity to destroy the Bible? Or when they tell us the truth about other parts of the Bible, shall we impugn their motives, and call them enemies of the Bible and of religion?

Let me quote from an interview with Mr. Newell reported in last night's *News*, which came to me just as I had reached this point in the preparation of this sermon. The *News* reporter quotes our Massey Hall lecturer as saying: "During the eighteenth century, in the days of Voltaire and Tom Paine, infidelity was honest and open in its opposition to Christianity; but there has arisen in the last half century in Germany and extended through all Christendom, a movement called by the name of Christian scholarship, which, under the pretence of assistance to the Church of God in the interpretation of the Bible, by certain supposedly more learned and esoteric laws, is really introducing precisely the fabric of destructive criticism of the Bible, and is simply the old fabric of infidelity rebuilt and whitewashed.

"The out-and-out infidels of other days openly avowed themselves enemies of the Church of God, and were thus honest in their attitude compared with their successors of to day. The infidels of our times get into the pulpits and theological chairs, and pose as defenders of the Christian faith, receiving the support of innocent, trusting Christian people, while they teach doctrines utterly subversive of Christian faith and life. They are thus not only infidel in their attitude and judgment, but are contemptible in their dishonesty and deceit."

These are astonishing words. Who is Mr. Newell that he should presume to utter them regarding the honored, the high-minded, the deeply religious and devout scholars who are preaching in so many of our pulpits, and who in our theological schools are training our young men for the Christian ministry and the missionary field? Think of the responsibility of making such charges against such men! Think of employing the man who makes such charges to instruct the young people of our churches in the Bible and in religion! As an offset to the wild and reckless utterances of such a man, and for the benefit of any who may entertain fear as to the religious effect of the higher criticism, let me quote very brief passages from two eminent, candid and fair-minded Christian scholars of England. And please observe that I am taking pains to make all my quotations from distinguished orthodox and evangelical scholars.