

THE HIGHER CRITICISM

This is a large subject to attempt to discuss within the brief compass of a lecture. It will not be possible to deal in detail with all the hypotheses and arguments of the critics. What I shall attempt to do will be :

First, to explain what is meant by the Higher Criticism, and to state concisely the theory of the Old Testament put forth by those popularly known as Higher Critics."

Secondly, to outline some of the reasons why we do not accept their theory, and why we are confident that it must be ultimately rejected by the Christian Church.

I do not forget that the so-called "Higher Critics" of the Old Testament, do not all occupy the same religious ground. Some are avowedly the opponents of all Revelation, and it was among them that these theories originated and now find their chief support. There are others who claim to hold fast their evangelical faith while they adopt the methods and to a large extent the conclusions of their rationalistic workers. I admire their scholarship and their industry. I gladly admit their sincerity and good intentions. But, I am constrained to think that they are