

be at the mercy of the Philistines, so the Word of God, unsupported, can cast down every critical Dagon in this day as in the past. Ingersoll's "Mistakes of Moses," Briggs' "Dithyrambic raptures," all the attacks of the scholars in Christendom will fail. He that keepeth Israel slumbereth not, and He that watches over His word waketh ever.

Meanwhile let us not be so foolish as to be taken in by the tricks of clever men. "We hear the cry in the streets, 'Who will barter an old lamp for a new one?' In Eastern story this was the trick of an evil magician to get from Aladdin his lamp of priceless value and so compass his ruin. We know something of the worth of this lamp of ours. It has brought us riches of unsearchable value. It has placed us among the princes of God. Let us beware. If once we surrender the old belief in the Bible and barter it for a new lamp of a complicated interweaving of legends by some skillful Macabean impostor, we may find when too late that we may be overtaken by a ruin more terrible than in the Arabian story."

III. MARK THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE WATCHES OVER IT.

For what purpose does God watch over His word? To perform it. In reading the life of our Savior one is greatly struck with His attitude towards it. He placed Himself under it. He studied it to perform it. So God all through the evolution of history in the course of times watches over His word to perform it. He who looks at the

word and at history aright, will find many striking evidences of this. A minister sat on a summer's day gazing for a long time on the sea. A friend asked, "What do you see in looking so long?" The answer was, "I see God." Looking over the world, studying the signs of the times, the characteristics of this and other days, what do you see? I see God. I see God performing His word. I see the words of Isaiah concerning the servant of the Lord fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. I see Israel scattered to the ends of the earth, and trodden under foot. I see the visions of Daniel sculptured 'n history. I see the revelation given to John evolving itself. I see the prophecies of Paul and of Peter as to the state of the Church fulfilled to the letter. The very attacks of unbelief outside and inside the Church, are the strongest proof that God is watching over His word to perform it. He will bring it all forth in good time. With him there is no failure and no perplexity. He is never at a loss. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled." Clever men in these days say the very reverse. They speak strongly of the stability of nature and the instability of revelation. "Since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were," is their cry, must continue, to give scope to their theories. "Stored up for fire" is the testimony of the Spirit, "but the word of the Lord endureth for ever." God watches over His word to perform it. He will perform all its words of mercy. "Let the