

Babylonian contracts of the age of Abraham, is primarily a philological one; but the appreciation and historical application of the fact—if fact it be—falls within the province of archaeology.

So, too, it is for philology to decide upon the meaning of a passage in an ancient inscription; the historical bearing and date of the passage must be determined by archaeology.

Of recent years, however, criticism has endeavoured to bolster up the weakness of the philological method by an appeal to the doctrine of evolution. But again, as in the case of 'literary tact,' the appeal is to subjective impressions and beliefs rather than to scientifically established facts. That evolution has been a potent factor in the history of man no sane thinker will deny; the precise line along which it has moved, still more the line along which it ought to have moved, is a totally different matter.

In many instances the process of evolution is clear, the links of the chain are practically preserved, and we can point out the orderly sequence in which they have succeeded one to the other. But in many instances this is