

taken from other writers: information about Winchester, where the Annals were written, is often added independently. The material thus comes from varied sources and by Higher Criticism the varied parts can be discriminated. The same is the case with other medieval works such as those on philosophy and theology. Historical Criticism (Higher Criticism if that name may be used) has in every case to discuss and possibly dissect a work in some such way. By such a method and by such a method alone can we determine the history and the historical value of any given work: not infrequently a passage if traced to an earlier writer has of course much greater weight than if it merely belonged to the text where we come across it: not infrequently from the alterations and additions made by the later writer we gain a knowledge of his own day and his own tendencies. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that this method of Historical Criticism, which has a science of its own, is within limits certain in its results: it has grown immensely in the last forty or fifty years, its use has placed the study of history (of secular history at any rate I may speak) upon a new foundation. It has recovered early works, long supposed to be lost: it has thrown light upon fields of history long in darkness: it has (and surely this is a great gain) enabled us to tread firmly where before we had groped.

The general public might not gather from the discussions upon Higher Criticism reaching its ears that there is here no question of a method applied to the Old Testament and to it alone: it is the method by which in any case of historic material we "reverently seek to know." It is as much an instrument of use, with those who are trained to use it, as the eyesight is with those who read ancient manuscripts. It would be almost impossible to lay down rules forbidding us to apply Historical Criticism to the Old or New Testament which would not equally forbid the application of Textual criticism. In the case of the New Testament the application of both branches of criticism has enlarged our knowledge and