

with our Lord's unerring authority, a Christian will pause before he commits himself to these theories." Let me not be understood as saying one word against criticism, as such. It has its place, both the Lower and the Higher. But we do raise the danger signal against any criticism that proceeds upon the denial or dislike of the supernatural.

Akin to the better phases of this rationalistic criticism is the New Theology, or, as Dr. Dale calls it, the New Evangelicalism. This accepts the Bible as the Word of God, but as the first point in its divergence from the old, according to Dr. Munger in his "Freedom of Faith," it claims a larger place for reason. How much is meant can only be known by a careful observation of the positions thus reached. And what are they? The doctrine of future punishment is toned down, and room is found for a future probation; special stress is laid upon God's Universal Fatherhood; the incarnation is exalted at the expense of the atonement, and justification is explained wholly by an acquired righteousness. Now whilst, no doubt, good is being done by putting emphasis on phases of truth that had not received proper recognition, yet, in these teachings it is not hard to discern the rationalistic spirit and a departure from the plain implications of the Bible in order to make its teachings appear more palatable to human reason and the human heart.

All this lowered thought of the Bible and free handling of its contents has begotten a spirit of doubt and unrest which is more and more percolating through the masses of the people. One of the effects of it may be seen in a growing latitudinarianism of which the Parliament of Religion was to a large extent an outgrowth; for if we make the Bible a merely human book, we are ready to put Christianity on a par with other religions, or, at best, as *primam inter pares*. It is seen also in the growing numbers who openly declare themselves unbelievers. In Germany to-day these are fourteen times as numerous as they were twenty-five years ago. This striking at the authoritativeness of the Bible, moreover, makes it easier for professing Christians to drift into worldliness; and how much we have to-day of the form of godliness without its power! It gives freer rein to the materialistic tendencies of our mercenary age; furnishes a soil in which *isms* of all kinds grow rank, and