

or to whom I may refer. I shall be glad if you will permit me to use the alphabetical characters usually employed when referring to the redactors and compilers who have been credited with the composition in its present form of various portions of the sacred text. I shall be compelled to condense my arguments into a very few words, and in quoting from authors to give but the words which are necessary to make the point clear. If any question should arise as to the authority or full text of the quotation, I may say that in the fuller notes from which I have condensed this paper, I have noted the author, the book and page from which, I have quoted, and shall be glad to furnish these to any who may question the correctness of the quotation, or who may desire to look more fully into the position taken.

It may be well to determine what is meant in this paper by "Higher Criticism." The term is rapidly losing the meaning which was first attached to it, and becoming so broad and vague that for purposes of clear thinking and perspicuous reasoning it is almost useless, and other more definite terms are supplanting it. "Higher Criticism" is rather an unfortunate term. It has an air of affectation about it; it smacks of pedantry and undue assumption. But it was not first used in that sense. It was employed to distinguish it from a more general form of criticism called lower or textual criticism.

"Higher Criticism" is a critical inquiry into the nature, origin and dates of the documents of the Bible