

after his death. The title must have been intended to suggest either that he contributed the early portion of it, or more probably that it gave the history of the important national revolution in which he so largely figured. In this last case it tells us nothing as to authorship. The same may be true of the books of Joshua, Jonah and Daniel, though the reasons for so thinking are far less obvious and by no means conclusive. On the other hand one would scarcely think of any other purpose in the title of the book of Ezra than that it was meant to suggest authorship, though it is the history of his own public life. His literary tastes and habits make it exceedingly likely that he would leave some such record as we find there preserved. The name of Jeremiah is first connected with Lamentations in the Septuagint, but no sufficient reason has arisen to set it aside. In the New Testament the authors of the three Synoptic Gospels are indicated only in the titles and their correctness was at one time confidently denied, but after a century of inquiry they are now almost universally accepted with some reservation as to the narrative portions of Matthew's Gospel. So the first Epistle of John is attributed to him only in the title, but by common consent the claim is now acknowledged. On the other hand the Epistle to the Hebrews should probably be anonymous, which it is in the oldest manuscripts.

The two *collections* in the canon are the books of Psalms and Proverbs. But beyond emphasizing the obvious fact that they are collections of pieces by different authors at various times, recent criticism has added little to our knowledge. All attempts to deny the hand of David in the one or of Solomon in the other have so far proved futile. Attempts to revise and supplement the detailed headings which are attached to many of the separate pieces in these collections have likewise proved almost entirely visionary.

There remains now only one class of canonical books to be considered,—those which make statements as to their authorship, but in such form as to leave room for some uncertainty as to how much is meant by them. It is here, however, that we came upon the points where the most serious controversies have arisen.

In accordance with the principles already laid down all such statements contained in the books themselves should be taken at their full value, and frankly accepted, unless the evidence from other quarters is such as to show them false. But the practical difficulty has been to determine just what that full value is. The question of interpretation is raised and the still more