

In this article we furnish one proof taken from the nature and structure of the Bible itself, viz., *its marvellous unity of doctrine in a no less manifold variety of utterance*. We are convinced that revelation, like the sun, must be seen in its own light ; and, while we may accept outside evidence as buttresses, yet the foundation of our faith must always lie within that faith itself ; and hence we make our appeal to that word of life as the grand ultimate tribunal, while we show that the fire which burns on this altar is holy, and the light which shines from its pages the true light from heaven.

Our argument rests on these universally conceded features of the Bible : *its unity and variety of outward form*, given at sundry times and in diverse manners, and yet revealing one system of truth, built on one plan or scheme of grace and revealing but one way of life. Though branching out on all sides it grows from one trunk or stem ; consisting of many parts, one spinal cord runs through and unites all into one body. There are many books from many authors, and yet, in the most emphatic sense, one book from one author. As the varied colors together form the pure beam, or the many sounds of an orchestra blended into one, harmony, so its human side, of diversified form, is blended into and embraced by the Divine side, the one revealed will of God.

1. *The diversity of Scripture* : The first thing that strikes an intelligent reader of the Word of God is the variety of its contents. The one book which we call the Bible presents us with a series of writings of the most heterogeneous character. It contains a collection of writings by a great number of authors, separated from each other in *place, time*, and of every grade of social distinction, from the fisherman, the herdsman, and laborer, to the eminent statesmen and illustrious sovereigns upon the throne. The writers are men of different tastes and talents, of widely different culture, and in no sense connected as belonging to the same school of thought, while the substance of their writings, the style of composition, and manner of treatment are just as varied as the authors themselves. We have fragments of national and personal history ; geographical and biographical records ; chronology and statistics ; family records ; poetry in every form—psalms, hymns, anthems, war songs, the drama, the elegy, the lyric. We have proverbs,