

were never foundations, and were never meant to be foundations; the truth of the Christian religion cannot be dependent upon them. But they may be facts of nature for all that. And just at this epoch, when many things are being investigated, and when discoveries are being made in strange and unlooked for regions, it behoves the wise man to reserve his judgment; to decline to build, indeed, upon unproved phenomena, but also to hesitate to reject them as untrue. We are immensely far from understanding all the laws of nature. For only a few centuries, and under much discouragement, have a few members of the human race been investigating them; and already fresh chapters, fresh volumes, seem likely to be opening before us. Now is no time for dogmatic denial of anything, however remarkable, however weird. Nor is there need for loud-voiced assertion either. The truth concerning these things will appear in due time. That can be depended on. Meanwhile we can attentively wait.

Listen to the historian as to the documentary evidence for these things—some of them will undoubtedly prove to be invention, for others the literary evidence may be good—and then keep your ears open to the men of science also, when in good time they have something to say on present-day occurrences not wholly unallied to what is asserted of the past, and on subjects which are receiving the strenuous and thoughtful attention of more and more among them.

The truths of the universe are far greater, and the ultimate outlook wider, than has been thought possible even by the vagaries of undisciplined imagination; and, under the touch of a lofty spirit, detents spring open revealing secret chambers which to the majority, in their smug contentment, must be for ever closed.

OLIVER LODGE.

*December 1907.*