

moreover, I shall also endeavor to remove the painful misconceptions which have unfortunately been created in reference to my treatment of Messianic prophecy.

Rightly interpreted and understood, my view of prophecy is just as evangelical in character and purpose as is that of any other Christian writer on the subject. In this article, I hope to show that sceptical rationalism, such as my critics combat, I combat; that destructive criticism, such as they denounce, I denounce; and that negative teaching, such as they condemn, I condemn. In short, I hope to show conclusively that I am just as strongly opposed, in spirit and practice, as any of my adverse critics are to everything of the nature indicated or expressed by these opprobrious terms.

THE PHENOMENA OF PROPHECY.

In discussing the phenomena of prophecy, I have shown that certain general features were common to all primitive prophecy, whether Hebrew or heathen. When making this statement, I had no intention whatever of minimizing the superhuman element contained in all true prophecy. I simply wished to emphasize an interesting and important fact, which I supposed all competent students of the subject had observed and would admit. Instead of ignoring this fact, it seems wiser in every way to recognize and acknowledge it.

In my concise discussion of this portion of the subject, I did not think it necessary to prove the existence of common features in primitive prophecy by referring to the character of the prophets of the god Baal, the worship of whom was predominant at one time among the Phœnicians, the Canaanites, the Chaldeans (in whose country Abraham lived before he came to Palestine), and, indeed, among nearly all the ancient Semitic races, from an unknown period of antiquity. I did not think it necessary either to observe that the dream, the vision, and the power of insight and foresight are phases of prophecy common to all the great historic religions of the ancient world.

Nor did I refer to the probability that in the Hebrew system of religion, the seer occupied a place which corresponded to that occupied by the soothsayer in heathen systems, the differ-