

with limitations, as to make him unable to reveal himself in a special manner, he begs the whole question, resolving every supposed divine visitation of a human soul into imagination. He does not say that there is no future state, but his attitude towards it is about as agnostic as that of the pre-Christian Romans, set forth in Merivale's *Conversion of the Roman Empire*. As a Biblical critic, our author concedes nothing to the enlightened theologian, but lets drive at him with every school-boy objection. His tone is reverent, but it partakes of the sober and judicial earnestness of the murderers of Archbishop Sharp, which, if the Bible were the persecuter that some of its professing believers are, would be right enough. Dr Goldwin Smith's book has come too late to do Christianity any harm or to add to his own reputation. It is the work of an apparently reluctant destructive critic which will please nobody, since those who are disposed to champion his radical views will be annoyed that he has not gone far enough to suit their atheistic fancy. His own theism, when analyzed, will be found to be the result of Bible teaching.

While hostile critics are consigning the books of Scripture to oblivion into which their objections will speedily fall, scholars of note and wider technical knowledge are devoting all their powers to the vindication and elucidation of the sacred oracles. There are 590 large octavo pages in the *International Critical Commentary on St. Luke's Gospel*, by the Rev. Alfred Plummer, M.A., D.D., Master of University College, Durham, published by T. and T. Clark of Edinburgh, and brought before the Journal by Messrs. Drysdale. Dr. Plummer finds that the author of the Gospel is a companion of Paul named Luke, who also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. He calls it Paul's gospel, and shews the likeness of its style and language to those of Paul and of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Its medical phraseology is touched upon, its integrity is vouched for, and its attestations in literary history are set forth. Thereafter, Dr. Plummer goes forward with his commentary as if the higher critics and the objectors to the supernatural did not exist.