

Syrians. In 1 Chron., in the account of the same battle, the number is given as 7,000. In 1 Kings xx. 30, it is said the wall of Aphek fell and killed 27,000 Syrians. Is it wrong to question the exactness of this number? In 2 Chron. xiii. 17, we are told that Abijah put to death 500,000 of the followers of Jeroboam. Is it possible that the rebel chief had so large an army, that in one battle he lost by death a number of soldiers twice the size of the standing army of Great Britain, the largest and greatest empire of history? I believe in the infallible inspiration of the sacred writers, but not of copyists nor of translators, either of 1611 or even of 1880. In the New Testament there are 150,000 variations of readings, but there are not fifty of these that materially affect the sacred narrative, and, as shown by that distinguished Unitarian scholar, Ezra Abbott, not one invalidating any Christian doctrine. Indeed, he shows that the very number of variants, being caused by so vast a mass of testimony in MSS., versions, lectionaries, and patristics, gives almost absolute certainty in determining the original text; that is, having so many authorities to consult in collating them all in each separate case of variation, a degree of certainty can be secured which, in secular history or criticism, or in science, would be pronounced absolute.

In this analysis I have given a place to verbal inspiration side by side with what is known as the Dynamic theory. I am aware that the latter is generally regarded as precluding the former. I think this is not necessarily so, but that the spirit of inspiration, while presenting truth through the channel of the normal action of the intellectual faculties, and bearing the tinge of the writer's peculiarities of style and temperament, still guides his writing so as to give infallible exactness to every word, without mechanically using him as a tool. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Amycla, in the symposium before mentioned, gives a very good illustration which, in some respects, correctly typifies this point. A ruler wishing to send an important despatch abroad, makes known to a minister of the crown what he wishes to say. The latter proceeds to formulate the despatch, at the same time being overruled and