

State, is not likely, viewing the matter in the abstract, to advance him one whit further *intellectually* than the stage of religious thought already attained at the time of the dissolution of totemistic society. He who elects to honour the one method at the expense of the other does so at high cost to himself and to truth, for in spurning either of these methods as used in their respective spheres, he is deliberately closing his eyes to a mass of phenomena which always refuses in the long run to be heedlessly brushed aside. To honour the method of theology and dishonour that of evolution, or *vice versa*, is thoroughly illogical, and invariably brings its own Nemesis. The historical critic then is the man who clearly recognises these distinctions and their respective merits, and acts accordingly.

Our modern critical attitude towards the Bible, or in other words, the progress of Biblical criticism during the last century, is a matter of the highest importance to all of us in Canada who are actuated by the spirit of truth, progress, and liberty. Unless the members of the rising generation, many of whom no doubt are destined within a few years to become the intellectual and spiritual leaders and counsellors of this Dominion, are disposed to be fearlessly and patiently moulded in the fiery furnace of truth, during their formative years, with a view to learning how to adjust their minds to this ocean of new light, now pouring in from all directions, they will inevitably find to their sorrow, in mid-life, that they have lost their grip upon the reality of things, that they are playing idly with a mere shadow and travesty of the truth, that they have forfeited the confidence and esteem of those men and women whom they are most solicitous of helping in the great battle of life, and that they will be compelled in consequence to submit to the humiliation of being themselves led by those whom their commission bade them lead. Al-Hariri the Shakespeare of the Arabic mind said once in the inimitable manner of his native tongue: "Truly, the purity of the gem is shown by the testing, and the hand of truth rends the cloud of doubt."

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