

The indictments preferred against him were :

1. A view of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, which impugns and discredits them as the supreme and infallible source of religious truth ; and
2. A view of God, which sets him forth as one who does not smite either in the way of punishment or discipline, and who has nothing to do with the judging or punishing of the wicked.

All honor to the men who are sincere seekers after the truth, and have the courage to express the truth when found, though it may contradict old authority, and they may be persecuted for it. How soon will the Christian world take "Truth for authority and not authority truth."

S. P. Z.

#### THE DEFENCE.

"I am charged with 'impugning and discrediting the Holy Scriptures.' The charge is false to the foundation. If I had strayed a hair-breadth from the law and the testimony it has been for the sake of the Gospel, which is their fulfillment. Rejecting the fact of progress in revelation, paying no attention to the freedom of the inspired writers, overlooking the truth that many of the historical books and parts of the prophecies are national chronicles, a theory of verbal, mechanical inspiration is pressed, which belongs to the days when men pinned their faith to the inspiration of the Hebrew vowel points, which is utterly unjustified by the facts of Scripture. I believe the Bible, even the Old Testament, to be on the whole a very truthful book, and its errors in history, chronology and other matters to be very few and of no importance ; but the errors are there. More than twenty years ago I gave special attention to the genealogies of the first book of Chronicles, and a comparison of these with those in the 30th chapter of Genesis, and with the scheme of ancient history. These revealed wonderful discrepancies, showing that the chronicler ignorantly classified under the families of Israel great Gentile

names having no connection with them. It may be said that if we possessed the original manuscript of Chronicles these errors would not appear ; but this is absurd trifling, since we who need to be instructed have not the manuscript, and, even if we had it, would just as likely find it differing a little from our recorded text.

#### IS ALL SCRIPTURE EQUALLY INSPIRED ?

"The court seems to say that all Scripture is equally inspired and in every part is the infallible rule of faith and morals. The Old Testament sanctioned polygamy and formulated a law of divorce which Jesus Christ condemned. Slavery existed by legal enactment, witchcraft was punished with death ; heathen, such as those for whom the Christian missionary now lays down his life, were massacred, men, women and children, by the soldiers of Jehovah. Speaking by inspiration, the Prophetess Deborah praises Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for an act of coldblooded treachery. We read in the first chapter of the second book of Kings that Elijah called fire from heaven to destroy two captains of Israel and their fifties ; but in Luke iv., 51-55, when James and John said to Jesus concerning the Samaritan village that would not receive them, ' Lord, wilt thou not that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them even as Elias did ? ' He turned and rebuked them with the answer, ' Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.' There is certain Psalms, such as the 35th, 49th and 109th, which invoke fearful curses upon the persecutors of Him who is represented in them, but when the Messiah came He rebuked all cursing, and concerning His bitterest foes, prayed, ' Father, forgive them.'

#### OLD TESTAMENT MORALITY.

"In the fifth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus Christ arraigns the deficiencies of Old Testament