

ing our English Bible, leading scholars of all denominations, in England and in America, worked side by side for years, and felt the spirit of brotherhood among them greatly promoted by their work. This is typical. Scholarship overleaps sectarian lines. Less and less often is it coming to be asked concerning a scholar : Is he an Episcopalian ? is he a Methodist ? is he a Baptist ? is he a Unitarian ? More and more the great question is coming to be : Is he a scholar ? Our religious literature has recently been enriched by two very valuable dictionaries or encyclopædias of the Bible. Each has been produced by a great company of Biblical scholars representing every denomination. We are having given us many valuable series of books on the Bible—introductions, hand-books, histories, commentaries, and so on. In nearly all cases the books making up these series are written by men wholly without reference to sect. Thus it is that genuine Biblical scholarship—Biblical scholarship whose supreme question is, What is true?—draws men together. If we are wise enough to trust our scholars, to give them freedom to seek for truth in all directions, and to utter it without fear of censure, the result is certain to be a still further decline of the sectarian spirit, and a still greater increase of the spirit of Christian unity and co-operation. But just in the degree in which we encourage narrow, dogmatic, unintelligent Bible study, which despises scholarship and mistakes its own fanaticism for the inspiration of God, just in that degree will sectarianisms be fostered and Christian unity and brotherhood be delayed.

I wish to ask, and to answer as fully as my limited time permits, three questions :

What is the Higher Criticism ?

Who is President Harper, who has been singled out for especial condemnation because of his support of the Higher Criticism ?

What are Mr. Newell's teachings ?

First,—What is the so-called Higher Criticism, which Mr. Newell so severely condemns ?

Many persons seem to think of criticism as simply fault-finding and pulling down. This is a false conception. Criticism may be constructive as well as destructive. The criticism of a book is simply the intelligent, careful, accurate study of it, with a view to finding out the truth about it.

Criticism of the Bible is generally divided into two kinds, called the Lower Criticism and the Higher. That which is known as the Lower has to do with the text. It collects original manuscripts, studies them as to their age and peculiarities, compares them care-