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GENESIS.

It is no wonder that the book of Genesis should attract considerable attention in these days ; for we have fallen on times when the eye of man is supposed to be free, and capable of peering into all the dark obscurities of the past. The excess of our modern novelties imparts a relish to the examination of what seems so old and out of harmony with what now takes place among men. And a careful survey of what man is, would lead us to anticipate the extreme conditions which here and there, under the high sounding name of "Higher Criticism," have deluged Biblical literature. It is always hard, even for historical critics, with best intentions in their hearts, to estimate what belongs to a remote age, by principles free from the taint of modern habitudes of thought. It is a common fallacy to speak of "Religion" as a precious revelation from God, commingled with an excessive amount of extraneous matter, which is not "Religion," which may even be philosophically and historically false—as contrary to the essential element of Heaven born truth it encases, as the coarse grit of the river bed is unlike the precious gold that may lie in its midst—or as the dirty, dingy frame and setting of a choice picture may differ from the work of art it subserves. But it is overlooked, that both the "grit" and the "gold" are the product of One Creating Hand, and the picture and the setting are equally the product of mind intent on one purpose. It is certainly a modern discovery that the Author of all order and beauty, the Fountain of all fitness, should deliberately enfold the most precious of all gems, "Truth," in a congeries of falsehoods ; or, that in resolving to bless His erring children on earth with an authentic representation of Himself, He should be so indifferent to the matter as to suffer ignorant, unskilful men to frame the Father's image in materials that make it hideously indistinct ! Verily, we are a wise and understanding people ! That in documents that have been copied scores of times by the hand of man, and passed on from age to age, some clerical blunders, on the part of the copyist, should be made, is only what might be expected ; and, also, it is natural that, now and then, editors and compilers should, for the sake of elucidation, insert connecting or explanatory sentences, to help readers of subsequent years over the difficulty of understanding the bare