

they may endeavour to persuade people that their hostile attacks are made in a reverent spirit of investigation. Amidst the perpetual attacks made by the Clergymen of our various Churches, and especially by those in our Theological Colleges, upon the Bible, it is refreshing to turn to the writings of a well-known Clergyman of the Church of England—the Reverend John Wesley, whose use of the Bible wrought so marvellous a change in England at a period when it was nearly drifting to a revolution which might have paralleled that in France of the eighteenth century. He says in the third volume of his writings, page 504:—

“It would be excusable if these menders of the Bible would offer their hypotheses modestly. But one cannot excuse them when they not only obtrude their novel scheme with the utmost confidence, but even ridicule that scriptural one which always was, and is now, held by men of the greatest learning and piety in the world. Hereby they promote the cause of infidelity more effectually than either Hume or Voltaire.”

Again, he adds this most pregnant statement as to the study of the Word:—

“In all cases the Church is to be judged by the Scripture, not the Scripture by the Church. And Scripture is the best expounder of Scripture. The best way, therefore, to understand it, is carefully to compare Scripture with Scripture, and therefore learn the true meaning of it.”—Wesley, v. 10, p. 143.

“Serious and earnest prayer should be constantly used before we consult the oracles of God; seeing ‘Scripture can only be understood through the same Spirit whereby it was given.’ Our reading should likewise be closed with prayer, that that we read may be written on our hearts.”—Wesley, v. 14, p. 267.

You will probably recognize the following, found in Volume XI., pages 478-9 of the same writer:—