

these difficulties by the somewhat scanty records of St. Paul's life in the New Testament, there is certainly no other life which touches them at all. Apart from St. Paul, the few personal touches in the epistle are left isolated, with no earthly bearing whatever. Reject the Pauline authorship, and besides destroying all exact exegesis of St. Peter's allusion to an epistle by St. Paul *not written to Gentiles* (2 Peter iii. 15), you have absolutely no alternative in its place. All other claims to have written the epistle can only pile conjecture on conjecture, without a scrap of *evidence* of any kind.

I am reminded at this point that there are expressions common to this epistle and St. Luke, found nowhere else in the Greek Testament. So there are expressions common to St. Luke and St. Paul's other epistles. But it is utterly illogical to maintain St. Luke's authorship, as opposed to St. Paul, on such slender grounds as these. The coincidences between St. Luke and Hebrews may be counted by tens at most, the coincidences between St. Paul and Hebrews by hundreds; therefore, it is more likely that St. Luke wrote to the Hebrews, than that St. Paul did! What sort of reasoning is this? But the same generation which is expected to receive this reasoning has also been burdened with a book to prove that St. Paul was the author of the Acts and the Third Gospel. Of course the evidence is the same; namely, the verbal coincidences between St. Paul and St. Luke.

Behold, then, a syllogism furnished by modern arguments from the use of language. On the ground of similarity of language, St. Luke is the author of the epistle to the Hebrews. But, on the same ground, St. Paul is the author of the two writings universally ascribed to St. Luke. Therefore, St. Paul must also be the author of the epistle to the Hebrews. In other words, St. Paul is only another name for St. Luke!

The contemplation of reasonings like this, where the premises of the argument are *published books*, supposed to be put forth in all earnestness and sobriety, may well make us