

It is the undisguised effort of the writer in *Lux Mundi* to shift the responsibility of evidence from off the Scriptures on to the Church. We are to accept certain truths because the Church tells us to do so ; not because they are true in themselves, but because the Church has declared in favour of their truth. On certain points, raised by criticism, the Church has not spoken, because she could not anticipate them, notwithstanding her endowment of abiding inspiration ; and, therefore, as she has not pronounced upon them, we may sit still and complacently let the critics say what they please in the confident assurance that our faith in the incarnation will not suffer. I am by no means sure, however, that the "Church" has been altogether so silent as it seems to be thought, when I find that the Nicene creed teaches that it was God the Holy Ghost "who spake by the prophets." But we may be quite sure that no doctrine like that of the incarnation can stand if we suffer its title deeds of evidence to be impugned. There is no more certain way of attacking the New Testament than by assailing it through the Old. The authority of the one is too intimately bound up in that of the other for either to be independent of the other ; and it is preposterous to suppose that to cling tenaciously to a doctrine like that of the incarnation will render us independent of the testimony of Scripture. The Church is a witness and keeper of Holy Writ, and we may be quite sure that if she is unfaithful to her trust, the days of her own existence are numbered and her faith will infallibly be undermined and overthrown, and her deposit of doctrine will be rifled and dispersed if she attempts to dispense with Scripture. The life of the Church is based upon historic fact ; it cannot exist if divorced from fact ; and it is the Scriptures which are the ultimate witnesses to the facts on which the existence of the Church depends. She has learnt her doctrines from the Scriptures, and has not embodied them therein as she has done in the creeds, and if the Scriptures are assailed, the doctrines which they teach cannot survive. It is suicidal to attempt to make Christian doctrine independent of the Christian Scriptures. And though this is mainly true of the New Testament, it is true