

# THE HIGHER CRITICISM.

A SERMON PREACHED IN THE CHAPEL OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE,  
LENNOXVILLE, ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1904.

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"WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY."  
Corinthians III, 17.

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The process of growth and change has both its sad and joyful sides, its dangers as well as its gains. In no field is the truth of this more easily seen than in the field of Bible Study: there never has been a time when change has not been feared from it and change opposed. I, you, a generation younger than I, start with helps to the knowledge of the Bible far beyond what I possessed when I was young: its spiritual truths are the same now as then but you have ready to your hand wealth of textual knowledge, historic illustration, and all in a word that we sum up as introduction, Criticism and Exegesis, far beyond what I attained a few years ago. Biblical Study is a more arduous task now than it was a generation ago: it is because of the fund of fresh information that has been thrown in the light that study has thrown upon its words, its phrases, its historic setting, its writers, the relation of the books to each other and the relation of the Bible to the Church and the history of the Canon which is the living history of a living book. Let me speak a word now of the New Testament before I turn to the Old, let us look at its history, and the history of its criticism. At one time the Vulgate was all that was held needful. The Vulgate, indeed, has a beauty, a rhythm of its own as our English Bible has: the Vulgate has been, as our English Bible, the language of devotion for

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