

in Hebrew might be dwelt upon if space permitted. Attention might be called to the inability which they must have to deal with or explain critical questions at present of great interest and widely discussed. This is a matter of minor importance, because the great work of the minister is not to defend the Bible but to expound its ever-living truths, and whatever scholarship he has will, in general, be more fruitful in the latter sphere, and yet it has an important place, and should not be lost sight of. It is also not to be forgotten that outsiders must and do perceive the weakness and defectiveness of Biblical learning that is not based on direct independent investigation, and in so far may suspect both the worth of the sacred records and the zeal of its professed interpreters. This source of loss to the Church is incalculable and must increase as other sciences grow in popularity and are continually being more skilfully expounded, and the retrogression of Biblical science in its supposed strongholds becomes more marked.

In another article I hope to discuss the causes of the great evil and suggest some means for its removal.

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