

carrying on their many-sided and illuminating work of Bible research, which is coming to be known as the higher criticism, than we have for trusting the divine guidance of Mr. Newell in defaming these men as wolves in sheep's clothing, and as infidels and infidel-makers worse than Mr. Ingersoll, and in going forward himself to teach views of the Bible which are as medieval as the Ptolemaic astronomy, and which are supported by the best scholarship of not one single important Christian church. Perhaps I am mistaken, but it would seem to be Mr. Newell's own consciousness that the scholarship of the world is against him that makes him so persistent and so denunciatory in his assaults upon it; for it should be borne in mind that the attack of a week ago last Tuesday night was not a new thing. It was only the most extended, violent and personal of many such attacks that he has been making ever since his Massey Hall meetings began.

Nor have his attacks been confined to the higher criticism and to scholars. The religious views and practices of at least two of our prominent denominations have been subjected to his lash. On February 10th his criticism of the Church of England was so severe that a clergyman of that Church sent a letter to one of our dailies about it, declaring the utterance "vicious, uncharitable and slanderous," and saying that "if this Bible class is to degenerate, as it has tended to do on the last few evenings, into an attack upon every faith and religion which may be inimical to Mr. Newell, the managers had better drop the word 'union' in connection with it, and cease to insult Christian people by inviting them to attend."

I do not see how thoughtful persons of any church can feel that it is anything less than a pity and a calamity to have the young people of our city, and the Sunday school teachers who are moulding the thought of a large part of the children of our churches, trained to such conceptions of the Bible as those of Mr. Newell, and their minds filled with such a spirit of narrowness, fanaticism and essential sectarianism as certainly the Massey Hall meetings are full of. It is one of the encouraging signs of the times in the Christian world that the sectarian spirit is declining among the churches. The spirit of unity is slowly but very surely growing. We are looking more at the great things that we have in common, and less at the relatively small things that divide us. It is a pity to have a dividing element come into any city. Narrow views always tend to divide. The views that unite are those that are large, intelligent, broad, inclusive. One of the best things about the Biblical scholarship of our time is that it is bringing leading minds of all churches together as perhaps nothing before has ever done. In the great work of revis-