

them from falling into error. The assurance of our Saviour that he could do it should satisfy us on this point. The men chosen for the work uniformly claimed to speak from God and for God. This claim is advanced so frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures as to impress the most cursory reader. And Jesus, the faithful and true witness, who had all the resources of Divine knowledge and could not be mistaken, endorsed this claim. He specifically accepted the Old Testament, and even set the seal of his approval upon very many of its most wonderful details by special mention of them. It was his only Bible, for the New Testament was not written till after his ascension. We dare not call in question the sufficiency of his knowledge or the absolute validity of his testimony in favour of Moses and the prophets, and in favour of the Holy Ghost as fully qualified to guide his Apostles into all truth. I dare not say with some that the Spirit could not and did not guide them in matters of geography, geology, astronomy or general history. I know not why these subjects should be regarded more difficult for him than the deep things of God. I believe that Christ meant what he said when he declared of the Spirit, "*He shall guide you into all truth*"—not into some truth.

And since he guides, but does not coerce, there is room for all the variety of style and modes of composition which characterize the sacred

oracles. This variety, instead of being a drawback, an obstacle to our faith, is just the opposite. The miracle of Inspiration is not diminished but increased by all this variety and by the employment of many instead of one or a few human agents, and yet securing truth and organic unity throughout the entire work. Imposters, such as Mohammed, aim at rigid uniformity of style in the hope of making it appear that their writings are literally dictated by God; but they forget that the God of nature, who is the God of the Bible, delights in infinite variety as consistent with perfect unity and truthfulness, and that "all these things worketh the one and the same Spirit."

The matter of the Bible may seem, in some instances, improper and repellant, such as we would not have inserted. Should this thought come to you in reading some Old Testament passages then remember that "no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Ghost." Remember, too, that the Bible is a revelation of man as well as of God. These dark and appalling facts, sometimes complained of as blemishes, are all needed in this sense, to show fully what is in man. Men are to-day as bad as these facts make them. Specimens in London. Paris, Chicago and New York equal in sinfulness and criminality those of Sodom and Gomorrah.

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