footing in Josephus (70-100 A.D.), and his account of the Old Testament Canon. And even then it is the tradition about Ezra's miraculous memory that meets us : of earlier traditions there is no trace. The traditions of the Talmud (to which your Lordship refers) were recorded at still later dates, stretching from 200 A.D. to 500 A.D. at least : they were formed by a lengthy process (none, I presume, wishes to postulate a single author for the Talmud, which is admitted to be the work of two continuous schools) and from their date alone can have but little weight. The traditional view is then a late tradition and cannot claim to be contemporary with the books themselves : it is later than they are by some centuries and the *evidence* for it even then is of the slightest.

But the Books of the Old Testament can tell us, surely, something about themselves : they do not, it should be noted, claim largely to be contemporary with the events they describe : in Genesis, for instance, no such claim is made (with the possible exception of the dying speech of Jacob; the case of speeches I refer to below): some passages presuppose a later date of composition (e.g. Genesis XXXVI. 31 : "These are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before there reigned any kings over the children of Israel.") In other books earlier sources, apparently used, are quoted or mentioned (e.g. Joshua X, 13, to 2 Samuel I, 18, "The Book of Jasher," and Numbers XXI, 14, "The Book of the Wars of Jehovah.") We should surely be careful not to make any claim for the Books of the Old Testament they do not claim for themselves ; even in the historic portions, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles, there are few narratives claiming to be told by contemporaries in the form we now have them. If they make no claim to have been composed independently of earlier traditions or older sources, it is unwise and inviting confusion for us to make such claims in their name. We must allow these Books, which meant so much to the Jews, and mean so much to us, to tell us their own story in their