

which may legitimately be taken into account in determining who wrote the passage. The Bible is human as well as divine. It follows that it cannot claim, nor does it ask, for any exemption from human criticism. The divine and personal Word Himself came in fashion as a man and subject to the limitations of human experience. The written Word itself likewise comes in the fashion of a human garb, and invites, rather than shirks, criticism, and says to every doubter, "Reach hither thy finger and probe, and test and see if I cannot satisfy both mind and heart of humanity." "The Book of God," says Stanley Leathes, "is not different from any other book in the laws of its composition, the changes and chances of its traditions, and its liability to errors of transcription." If only an over-ruling providential protection be recognized in these changes, the statement may stand unchallenged. Says Westcott, "The Bible is authoritative, for it is the voice of God. It is intelligible, for it is in the language of men."

3rd. The third point I note is, that every word of the Bible is inspired, or, rather, that the writers were *inspired in every word* they wrote. "Holy men spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." "All Scripture given by inspiration of God is profitable for instruction." What the sacred writers wrote, they wrote, as Paul says, "Not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." Says St. John: "We are of God. He that knoweth God heareth us. He that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." Says St. Paul, "If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." And confirmatory to such divine authority are the internal and external evidences afforded by the canonical books, establishing them as the Oracles of God through all the ages.

Such a view *does not imply a divine approval* of all historical matters recorded. The drunkenness of Noah; the duplicity of Abraham; the adultery of David; the casuistry of Bildad and Eliphaz; and the lies of the father of lies are all faithfully recorded; but, of course, there can be no divine approval herein