

dogmatic, or the portentous, but on the moral side of religion ; which insists on the spirit, not on the letter—on the meaning, not on the words—on the progressive, not on the stationary character of Christianity.

Let me take four groups of instances in which the public opinion of the clergy has been deeply changed in this direction even during the last few years.

(1.) First, as regards the Bible. The crude notions which prevailed twenty years ago on the subject of inspiration have been so completely abandoned, as to be hardly anywhere maintained by theological scholars. Of the eleven thousand English clergy who set their hands to a declaration in favour of those crude notions fifteen years ago, there are probably not fifty who would now do it again.

As regards the interpretation of the sacred books, questions of criticism and authorship which were formerly considered to be entirely closed are now fully and freely discussed. The non-Pauline authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews, which thirty years ago is said to have excluded a candidate from a theological professorship, is now maintained by no one of any name or fame. The second Isaiah, if not equally