

topic in a dissertation "*qua disquiritur unde Moses res in libro Geneseos descriptas didicerit*," inferring that Moses had used older historical fragments, but firmly maintaining the "*historica veritas*" and "*divina origo*" of the book. Astruc divided Genesis into four sources (A, B, C, D), with some few passages marked as AB. After an elaborate analysis, he proceeds to refute Spinoza's theories of a post-exilic authorship, on the ground that the Samaritans would never have accepted such a work from the Jews.

<sup>3</sup> RICHARD SIMON. Many causes combined to involve Simon's researches in a condemnation which Astruc afterwards escaped. His combative nature, and his share in the controversies of the day, made it impossible that any utterance of his should receive impartial consideration. The MS. of the *Histoire critique du Vieux Testament* managed to pass the censure, and was printed. But Bossuet's influence was sufficient to suppress the edition in France, although reprints were issued in Holland soon afterwards. The supplementary work on the New Testament appeared later without hindrance. As a history of the text, Simon's work is admitted to have been a valuable contribution to theology; but some narrow partialities and antipathies, especially where the labours of the Jansenists were concerned, and his total lack of appreciation for patristic exegesis, deprived the work of a thoroughly scientific character. Criticisms from all quarters were not wanting, but for the shallowness of the 18th century his work was too learned to meet with real appreciation, whether of its stronger or weaker sides.

<sup>4</sup> Johann Albrecht Bengel, the critic who, with one consent, stands first as a commentator upon the New Testament, did not escape bitter attacks in his own time from those who feared the possible results of his processes. When he published his edition of the New Testament in 1734, with its *apparatus criticus*, its departures from the *textus receptus* were denounced as treason to God's Word, as he relates. [*Vita auctoris*, § 35.] Bengel received these attacks very patiently, and declared: "I have suffered many hard words from those who are themselves God's children, and may have to endure more, until at last the truth shall prevail. \* \* \* All truth brings suffering and contradiction with it."