

loved to make beautiful books could spend time and money freely. There was good reason why the order should come to Cæsarea. For the most celebrated Christian library in the world was there, the library of Pamphilus, who was the predecessor of Eusebius. We have some manuscripts of later days, in which as a badge of high honour the inscription is in the margin: "This has been compared with the copy in Cæsarea in the library of the holy Pamphilus."

More important still is the fact that the bishop himself, Eusebius, is a great biblical scholar, and has made wide research on the whole subject of the accepted and non-accepted books. Perhaps that day when he watched the burning Scriptures impressed him with the need of investigating the subject thoroughly.

§ 2. It is not easy to find out from his account what he exactly believed on the subject. Like many another author who had too great a plethora of facts to digest, he probably could not quite make up his mind. Or, rather, since he is aiming not to tell his own opinion, but the opinion of the universal Church, and that universal Church had made no definite pronouncement, he had to be rather vague and sometimes contradictory.