

When some of his accusers at the trial struck him on the face, which Mark and Luke affirm was covered, they said unto him, 'Prophecy unto us, thou Christ; who is he that struck thee?' Perhaps, no other passage in the Bible describes more accurately than this the technical significance of the term prophecy. The demand of his accusers was evidently made in ridicule of Christ's title as prophet. They challenged him to give them a specimen of his prophetic power, or power to speak by inspiration—to prophecy, as used and understood by them, meaning specially and particularly to utter inspired knowledge, or to proclaim inspired truth.

In making and emphasizing this distinction between prophecy and prediction, I do not, by any means, disparage, much less ignore, the presence of the predictive element in prophecy. On the contrary, I have not only admitted its existence in the most explicit terms, but I have also tried to put it in its proper place in the prophetic teaching of the Old Testament. After discussing the tendency of sceptical writers nowadays to disregard entirely the predictive element, and of evangelical writers to emphasize only this latter element, I state distinctly, "the one treatment of prophecy is as prejudiced and partial as the other treatment is one-sided and incomplete."

? The predictive element being secondary and inconsequential, in comparison with the moral element, it can be shown to be incidental to the main work of the Old Testament prophets. What I have asserted and endeavored to demonstrate is that prophecy is not merely, or even chiefly, prediction, but teaching and preaching. From beginning to end of my discussion, though, I have not, in any single instance, made a disparaging remark respecting the predictive element, which really belongs to Hebrew prophecy, and which should never be disregarded or ignored. Any one who overlooks it or ignores it proves himself to be either a prejudiced or an incompetent student of Old Testament phenomena.

THE OFFICE OF PROPHECY.

According to Old Testament usage, I have pointed out, a prophet signifies originally a spokesman, or one who speaks