

It has been a matter of pain to me to see the language used on this side the Atlantic of writers, some of whom I know and to some of whom I am indebted. Bishop Ryle, an old Cambridge friend of mine, and one of the most devout and religious men I know: Prof. Sanday, who has been a pillar of strength to the Church in Britain, Prof. Kirkpatrick, and others of like views and like renown—all these are men wishing to know the truth, and the truth is not to be gained, let me remind you, by declamations from the pulpit or even by letters to the press. It is gained in Old Testament matters as elsewhere by the quiet unimpeded and unwearied work of prayerful and devoted scholars. Let us not impede their work, lest perchance—and I confess this is my fear—we should be found to fight against God.

I have not spoken of results: it may be they will vary or be different from what they appear at present to be. But I must confess that it seems to me, unless we are to accept verbal inspiration (a position which is to me incredible), or to refuse to know of the Old Testament what we can find out—the outlines of the present critical position will stand.

And it is for this reason I deprecate the treatment of such a problem solely in the interests of the unlearned and simple minds. They have their rights and their claims. Woe to us if by our negligence one of these little ones perish—and some critics are wild and hazy and extreme just as some of their opponents are timid and unfair. But that is always the case when knowledge grows. Are you going to fetter surgery because of the existence of many a quack? But a Church which contained a St. Paul among its Apostles must never dread the learning of either Gentile or Jew. I remember—and this was a blessed lesson I learnt from Cambridge in the olden days—that learning and study and research are God's own precious gifts for strengthening and enriching God's very world.

We may have something to unlearn as well as something to learn: that is the price of having been too sure and too