

with the infant sciences of ancient Israel, was sufficient to make men fear for the foundations of the kingdom of God. The authority of the Bible is no less. Its claims on our reverence and belief are no less. We have not found it to be less Divine. We have only got to understand better the nature and method of the Divine operation upon it.

## III.

It is quite true that the view here presented will necessitate more trouble and more care in the study of the Bible. We can no longer take each verse as in itself a complete and definite proof-text on the matter it refers to. We must consider the context and the time in which the writer lived, and the circumstances under which he wrote. We must balance one part of Scripture with another. We must recognise that the Old Testament teaching is in parts lower than that of the New. We must build our beliefs less on isolated phrases or texts, and more on the general spirit of the Bible. And for all this there will be needed more thoughtfulness, more suspension of judgment, more modesty, more study, more prayer.

But the outlay of these will be repaid a hundred-fold. The Bible, relieved from its incubus of human