

writing had been unknown in the time of Homer, and it would have been impossible to have remembered ~~so~~ such long poems as the Iliad and the Odyssey, and that they must have come into existence, ~~not~~ not as retaining any true knowledge of an earlier time but purely as a ~~result~~ result of the imagination of various writers. Wolf and his school took an attitude of extreme skepticism toward any ancient record that was not corroborated in great detail by other ancient evidences. The proper questioning attitude regarding evidence for any alleged fact was ~~carried down~~ carried to a very great extreme such as would make impossible the real proof of almost any historical fact. Cicero's orations, for instance, were alleged, one after the other, not to have been written by Cicero at all, but by friends or servants of Cicero who were anxious to enhance their leader's reputation. This general skepticism regarding facts of ancient history was applied most ~~effectively~~ effectively in the Biblical field by Julius Wellhausen who maintained that the Pentateuch tells only what people thought at the periods when it was written and gives an idea of their culture, and the development of their institutions, but tells nothing whatever about the time many centuries before with which it purports to deal.

This extreme skeptical attitude has largely been abandoned regarding the ancient world. Today when an alleged historical document is discovered the tendency is to accept its statements as true unless proof is available to show that they are false, rather than the other way around. Only in the Biblical field do some traces of this attitude remain.

A particularly outstanding ~~example~~ instance of this in the Biblical field is the article which Professor ~~Ala~~ Allegro wrote for Harper's Magazine last summer, in which Allegro practically denies that we can know anything at all about Jesus Christ, basing ~~it=solely~~ its skepticism solely on certain alleged similarities