

about 165 B.C.

book of Daniel be dated in the Maccabean period (170 B.C.) rather than during the Babylonian captivity (6th cen. BC), as the book itself claims. Such are "the assured results of higher criticism" when applied to the Old Testament.

10. The Decline of <sup>literary criticism</sup> "Higher Criticism" in General Literature

One of the earliest events to cast doubts on some of the results of <sup>excessive literary</sup> "higher criticism" in general literature came in 1887 with the discovery of some old manuscripts in a house where the German poet, Goethe, had lived as a young man.

Goethe had worked on his masterpiece Faust throughout most of his life, finally <sup>completing</sup> publishing it shortly before his death in 1832.

Some years later, Wilhelm Scherer, a noted philologist, applied the principles of <sup>literary</sup> "higher criticism" to the <sup>first part</sup> prologue <sup>of Faust</sup> of Faust, publishing his results in a book entitled Goethe-

studien. Scherer showed <sup>ing</sup> that some sections of the prologue were written when Goethe was young, thus having an enthusiastic and idealistic tone, <sup>more idealistic</sup> while <sup>while</sup> other passages showed the disillusionment of a <sup>greater</sup> later period.

These results were hailed as important achievements of <sup>literary</sup> "higher criticism" at the time. However, the manuscripts later discovered <sup>by Erich Schmidt</sup> included an early version of Faust in which the

prologue had almost the exact form of that finally published. Thus Scherer's assignment of passages to Goethe's old age, <sup>showing that</sup> <sup>different periods of Goethe's life</sup> <sup>using</sup> <sup>criteria</sup> <sup>was</sup> based on stylistic considerations, were shown to be incorrect when objective, external evidence came to light.

In the <sup>study</sup> ~~study~~ of ballads and early prose narratives, the idea that <sup>were</sup> a work <sup>was</sup> composed by a group has fallen into