

In(?) 1889 Charles Gore declared: "A literary criticism is being developed, which is as really new and intellectual products as the scientific development, and, as such, certain to reverse a good many of the literary judgments of previous ages."

These words were stated just about the time when the Wellhausen theory was beginning to come into England. Many of the proponents of the theory have declared that the Bible must be treated like (as) any other book, and the same literary principles of ~~xxx~~ criticism must be applied to it as are applied to other books.

This being the case, it is important that we examine the situation of literary criticism in the last century and see how it differed from those of the previous centuries, and of the present century.

There were certain great movements which affected literary history and literary criticism during the 19th century which are vital in the development of the J, E, D and P multi-document theory. These tendencies began at about 1790. They exercised great strength in the continent of Europe, and particularly in ~~Germany~~ Germany during the whole of the 19th century. Some of them were resisted rather strongly during the first part of the century in ~~the~~ the English-speaking world, but came in like a flood right after the Wellhausen produced his works. These tendencies which have now to a large extent run their course, and have almost disappeared from literary criticism.

It used to be widely said that higher criticism should not be used as a term of reproach, or as a means simply of designating the theory that divides different sections of the Old Testament into various sources, written at various periods, or as a substitute for the term "destructive criticism", but that Higher Criticism is simply a common literary term used to indicate the examination of a work in order to ascertain its origin and sources. This may have been the case in the 19th century, but it is interesting indeed to find that such is no longer the case to any/extent in the mid-twentieth century. I have examined all the recent books on literary criticism that I could easily find in a great library. Not being a specialist in this field,