

Term "Higher Criticism"

Cheyne, T. K., Founders of Old Testament Criticism (Methuen & Co., London) 1893

Re: J. G. Eichhorn

pp. 22, 23 ((Eichhorn wrote in the preface to the second edition of his Introduction to the Old Testament which went through 4 editions in the author's lifetime, besides two pirated editions)) "My greatest trouble I had to bestow on a hitherto unworked field — on the investigation of the inner nature of the several writings of the Old Testament with the help of the Higher Criticism (not a new name to any humanist)." By "higher criticism" he means the analysis of a book into its earlier and its later elements. He comes forward as a defender of the "genuineness" of the books of the Old Testament, but in order to prove this "genuineness," he claims the right to assume that "most of the writings of the Hebrews have passed through several hands." This, he remarks, has been the fate of all ancient books, and he adds that -

"Even the manner in which many of the writings of the Old Testament came into existence makes it necessary that there should be in them an alternation of old and new passages and sections. Very few of them came from the hand of their authors in their present form." (Einleitung, i, 92)