

There remains, however the possibility that it is a case of general corroboration, giving evidence that such incidents occurred in Egypt as Exodus 5 describes, though leaving the particularly instance without any specific evidence bearing upon it. Even this was strongly questioned by the late Professor T. Eric Peet of Liverpool University, who commented on Mr. Stuart's statement as follows: " It is almost inconceivable that any traveller in Egypt should make this statement with regard to the use of straw in bricks, for though straw has been used both in ancient and modern times, its use is somewhat rare, more particularly in ancient times. What is more, the writer of this passage in the narrative is certainly under some strange delusion as to the function of the straw when used. Its purpose is to bind the mud more tightly together, though as a matter of fact the Nile mud coheres so well of itself that no binding material is really necessary. Consequently the refusal of the task-masters to provide the Israelites with straw would not in the slightest degree increase the difficulty of their labours. As a piece of local colour the whole incident is unsatisfactory, and goes to prove the writer's ignorance of Egyptian customs rather than his close acquaintance with them, as is so often averred."

When a noted Egyptologist thus believes the Biblical statements to be out of touch with reality, what is the correct attitude to take? Certainly the proper response is not one of two extremes. One should not proceed to vilify him or to question his motives. That is between him and God, who alone knows the inner motives and thoughts. An argument should not be constructed from motives except when the evidence for such a conclusion is complete and unanswerable. The cause of Christianity advances by careful consideration of facts and evidence, not by superficial conclusions or by substitution of name-calling for patient research.

On the other hand, one must not be too hasty about deciding that Professor Peet's conclusions on this particular point are right. Jesus Christ rested weighty matters upon