

has worked out a comparison on this point, and has presented a system which explains most of the difficulties. I would not be certain that Dr. Thiele has given the correct interpretation in every case, but it can be stated positively that the fact that he could successfully work out such an explanation shows that the difficulty is not an insuperable one, and there is no reason why we cannot trust the historical reliability of the Old Testament on this point.

Professor Irwin of the University of Chicago has long been known as one who strongly favors the critical view of the Old Testament. A statement from such a man has special value as showing the progress that has been made on this point. In his Introduction to Dr. Thiele's book, Professor Irwin speaks as follows:

"Professor Thiele....has taken passages commonly regarded as patent disclosures of carelessness, if not of ignorance, on the part of the Hebrew historians, and has shown them to be astonishingly reliable....And it is a matter of first rate importance to learn now that the Books of Kings are reliable in precisely that feature which formerly excited only derision... Professor Thiele's work contributes very significantly both to our respect for the accuracy of the Hebrew historians and to a growing confidence in the soundness of the long process through which generation after generation of Scribes handed on the sacred text to the succeeding age."¹

We have only given a few of the many illustrations which might have been presented to show how the trend of new knowledge is increasingly fitting in with the historical reliability of the Old Testament. Christians have known all along that a book upon which Jesus Christ set his seal could not possibly be contrary to actual facts. Yet apparent difficulties and historical problems have often been presented in such a way that many a Christian has found extreme difficulty in maintaining his faith in the Old Testament. Not all the historical facts of the Old Testament find corroboration from archeology or