

in which he summarized each of his consular orations and enumerated one by one the four orations against Cataline. Orelli proceeded thereupon to say that this passage in Cicero's letter was spurious. He suggested the hypothesis that a forger had supplied the three orations and had then inserted in a letter of Cicero a forged summary of these same orations. Now other critics entered into the discussion and pointed out that since Cicero's letters were already in circulation it would have been utterly impossible to have inserted this statement in them, and that therefore the suggestion was actually ridiculous.

This is one of many instances that might be given of the extreme skeptical attitude that was so common in the early part of the last century. Later in the century Wellhausen declared that we could not learn anything from the Pentateuch about the life and attitudes of the periods that it claims to describe. He even suggested that Abraham was really the last of the patriarchs instead of the first. Today this extreme attitude has generally disappeared as far as non-Biblical material is concerned. The discovery by archaeologists of actual ancient materials in Greece, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia and Egypt, illustrating and corroborating various statements in ancient documents, has led to a complete change of attitude. It is recognized that many myths, legends and erroneous ideas have developed through the ages, but the present tendency, whenever a new document is discovered, is to assume that it is true until proven false, rather than the reverse, as was formerly done.

Schliemann's excavations in Troy and then at Mycenae on the Greek mainland showed that a great civilization had existed in ancient Greece prior to the Dorian migration and that in some respects this civilization was superior to