## Pentateuchal C iticism

teacher first she sort of introduced Mrs. Wilson into the town. She helped her in a great many things. She was much more familiar with them than Mrs. W. Wilson was. Then when Mrs. Woodrow Wilson moved away and moved to the White House then there came to town the widow of Grover Cleveland. She lived at Princeton. After that it seemed as if there would be 50 salesmen who would come to the house for one thing or another, and always their big argument was Mrs. Cleveland has bought one of these! Mrs. Cleveland has purchased this! That was the big thing.

And Mrs. Wilson didn't see why that should determine why she bought it or not whether Mrs. Cleveland had it! But a great many others without the aristocratic background of Mrs. Wilson I amsure felt that of all important reasons to buy anything that the fact that Mrs. Cleveland bought it wouldbe the most important. At least that would seem to be the attitude of the salesmen because that was the argument they were always presenting. Mrs. Cleveland( or Mrs. Pressman she later became) she bought this and she bought this.

You go into a class and the professor says, Here's what scholarship has discovered, about the Pentateuch. In Wellsley College every student has to take a course in which the criticism is presented and presented very dogmatically as that which is absolutely so and settled and final. One (some) of the students told me that summer, there is not the least intimation given that there is any other view. This is simply what scholars have discovered. It is just as certain-they don't say it in these words, but the a titude is-- it is just as certain as that the earth is round or that 2 and 2 make 4 or that the theory of evolution is true, that the Pentateuch is formed by this process-that the J, E and D document existed as separate entities before they were combined by the various redactors.

My point # 5 is that the alleged concensus of scholarship is not a valid argument. I have several subheads under that but before even mentioning them, I think we should be warned against taking it as too valid an argument in any case. All the world may believe something and be utterly wrong. It does not prove **t** it the fact that people agree with it.

I found that in connection with evolution this was very interesting to note how all the professors of botony and all the professors of geology and all the professors of biology, they were convinced that these were the facts. They would lay it down dogmatically: this is the way man evolved from aniamis and came up through this process. I was interested to ask some of them, Just what was the phase of this that you have done your graduate work in? What is your particular field of scientific study? I would find that the botonist was interested in the system of --the life system of the leaf and how the different products in the leaf worked together in order to form the green matter in the leaf. Or he was interesting in finding what kind of plants grew in a certain area and arranging them. And theat the biologist and

55

page 7