

lost lays of heathen times were of such a character that an epic could easily be made by fitting them together. Half a dozen motorcycles cannot be combined to make a Rolls-Royce."

Even a quick comparison of the discussions of Shakespeare written 40 years ago with those of today is enough to indicate the great difference of attitude in literary circles. One or two critics still cling to the older methods, but most of the present writers recognize that even Shakespeare could write poor lines, and that it is quite unscientific to select a few good things and then attribute the rest to various imaginary writers. The Higher Criticism is largely dead except as regards the Bible. Here it is tenaciously maintained.

The continued application of these methods to the Bible, despite their practical abandonment in other fields of literary study, is all the stranger since more factual material is available than ever before. This is the result of the investigations of archaeology. During the past hundred years a whole new world has risen from the dust through the work of excavators in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine and other parts of the Near East. At point after point where Biblical statements had been considered by the critics to be purely imaginary, material objects or long buried writings have come to light that fit exactly with the Biblical statements as they stand, and do not fit the history as reconstructed by the Higher Critics. Some supporters of ^{the} Wellhausen approach resolutely shut their eyes to these matters and maintain that most of the Biblical contents represent mythical developments or products of human imagination. Most, however, try to fit the archaeological discoveries into their own theories and thus are faced with an impossible task. The documentary theories tend to become bent or twisted to fit archaeological discoveries. Between these documentary theorists who accept archaeological evidence at the particular points where it clearly applies,