

in all educational work with progress from lower to higher things, but where is the *illusion*? The Century Dictionary defines illusion as follows: "1. That which illudes or deceives; an unreal vision presented to the bodily or mental eye; deceptive appearance; false show." "2. In *psychol.*, a false perception due to the modification of a true perception by the imagination; distinguished from false appearances due to the imperfection of the bodily organs of sense, such as irradiation, and from hallucinations, into which no true perception enters." "3. The act of deceiving or imposing upon any one; deception; delusion; mockery."

If the Century is right in its definition, Jesus did not practice *illusion*, and it has no place in a sound educational method. Jesus said concerning the hope of a blessed immortality in God's house, "if it were not so, I would have told you." He was the most candid, genuine, fearless teacher the world ever saw.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

Constructive Studies in the Prophetic Element in the Old Testament.

By William Rainey Harper. Pages 142, 8vo, cloth; postpaid \$1.00. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and New York. 1905.

This book is a companion to the *Priestly Element in the Old Testament* by the same author. Dr. Harper says in the preface: "The plan rests upon two vital principles: (1) That the student, guided by the suggestions made, shall do his own thinking and reach results which at least in a measure may be called his own. No conscious effort has been put forth to control the exact development of his thought. (2) That the student shall do his own work upon the basis of the Scripture material; in other words, that he shall study the Bible, and not merely read what others have said concerning it." These are fine words; we cannot withhold our hearty indorsement of both these vital principles. But the program of work as here outlined does not put the Bible as it is in the hands of the

student, but a new book constructed by modern critics who have reversed much of the work of the Old Testament writers. The college student, while imagining that he was doing strictly original work, would almost inevitably imbibe the author's own views, tactfully suggested by questions, and taught fully in the books most prominently mentioned in the literature on the various topics. Is this an example of *illusion*?

Who that ever knew the lamented author could fail to admire his genius for teaching and administration? He did much to revive Hebrew and Old Testament studies, more than any other man of his generation; the more is the pity that he accepted so many of the results of a criticism that sets so low an estimate on much of the Old Testament.

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