

Your Letters



Out-of-print writings

I am sure that many brethren and sisters of the older generation have been impressed over the years with some writings now out of print. I refer to some nineteenth- and early twentieth-century writers. In their day these non-Christadelphians were champions of the Bible as the Word of God, contending with higher criticism and anti-Bible literature. It comes as no surprise that over the years brethren have cited copious extracts from these writings. This is a tribute to much of the material found in them, and indicates that many brethren have these works on their shelves.

A particular feature of these old writings is the long sentences, which do not make for easy reading. It is regrettable that no one, to my knowledge, has undertaken the task of rewriting these works in a simpler and more readable style. This would encourage more to read them, especially the younger generation.

It is a cause of regret by the present writer that he did not make copious notes from these works in earlier days. I wonder if some brethren have been wiser, and could be a source of benefit to others by contributing what they have extracted from these works to the pages of the *Testimony*. Some of these works are very supportive of the Scriptures and a boost to our faith and enthusiasm. Take, for example, one outstanding statement by Henry Rogers: "the Bible is not such a book as man would have made if he could and could have made if he would". To my knowledge this impressive statement has probably been recited more often than any other in support of the in-

spiration of the Bible. The truth of this statement is illustrated in nine lectures published as *The Superhuman Origin of the Bible*.

If it is felt that readers would benefit from the publication of suitable summaries from these old works, then it is advisable that an appeal be made to brethren to submit such material to the editor. The following are some other works I have in mind besides the one quoted above:

Undesigned Coincidences Blunt

Natural Law in the Spiritual World Drummond

Theopneustia Gaussen

Horae Paulinae Paley

Analogy and Sermons Butler

I. T. Rees

Llanelli

This is a good idea, and I would be pleased to hear from any brethren who would be interested in doing this, with a note of what book or books they would be prepared to tackle. At present, however, the *Testimony* is not in a position to commence a series of articles on these lines due to commitments already made to publishing material, so it would be some time before anything could be published. Also, readers may like to bear in mind that the Internet is a good source for finding second-hand copies of out-of-print works, which may also have been scanned in and made available in downloadable form. I typed "*The Superhuman Origin of the Bible*" into the Google search engine, and immediately came across copies for sale second-hand and a downloadable version of it.—T.B.