

Tues eve. #9

a little later, toward the end of his life, Goethe said, "I have reread Homer's 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey', and I am so impressed with the unity of them, the wonderful literary unity, and the structure, and the high literary quality, of it all," he said, "much as I enjoyed the brilliant thinking of Professor Wolf, I just can't believe that any such great work of genius could come into existence by an accidental process like that." Well, scholars today have practically all ~~given~~ ~~given~~ given up any such idea about Homer, or in fact, about any of the great ancient works of antiquity. It is only regarding the Bible that this sort of theory is being held. And, regarding the Bible, the theory of 80 years ago is being taught widely today as established fact, when there is really no evidence for it. There are a thousand very weak arguments, any one of which can easily be answered. I picked up a book published by the John Knox Press, ~~XX~~ Introduction to the Old Testament. It is the work of a German scholar, Professor K _____, translated into English. And he says, "Look at Genesis 1 and 2; you have the order of creation different; in Genesis 1 you have vegetation/ created, and then later on, quite a time later, you have man created. In Genesis 2, you have man created; and then later on you have vegetation; it's a different order." Well, where do you find vegetation created in chapter 2? You read there, verse 8: "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." Well, if every time any one of us plants a garden, he's creating vegetation, well, we've had an awful lot of creations of vegetaion. But he simply refers to this and says it puts the creation of vegetation in a different order than Genesis 1. And it is a ? (maidy) thing that a great scholar, a famous scholar, would give such a silly argument. Do you know one thing I have found? I have found that it is never safe simply to take anything simply on authority. Because the greatest scholars, not merely critical/ scholars, either, the greatest scholars in almost any field, who have done very, very excellent work in one particular part of that field, which they have