

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

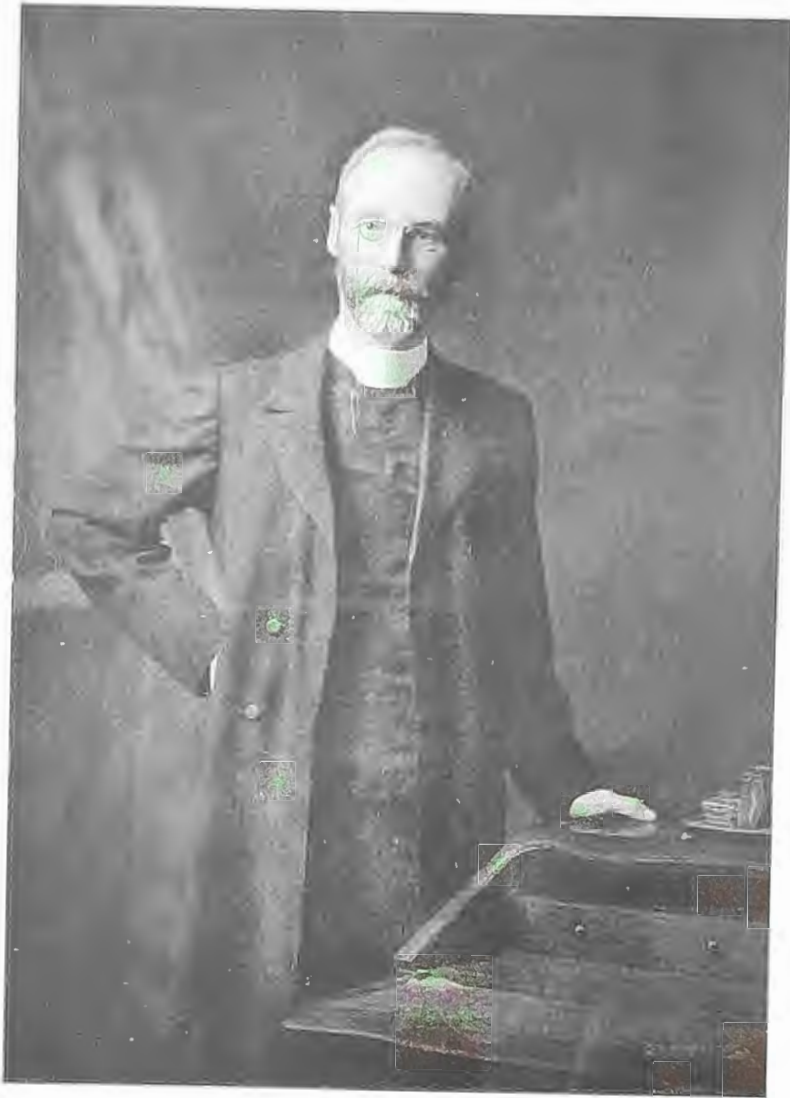
PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Expository Times* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_expository-times_01.php

pdfs are named: [Volume]_[Issue]_[1st page of article].pdf



Your very sincerely
James Hastings.

Dr. James Hastings.

THE EDITOR.

BY THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP HERBERT E. RYLE, D.D., DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

I SHOULD be grateful, if I might be allowed to pay a brief but most sincere and affectionate tribute to the life-work of the late Dr. James Hastings. Few men have rendered such important service to the cause of Biblical studies. His name should be held in high honour by those who come after us.

It was my privilege first to meet him in connexion with *THE EXPOSITORY TIMES*, which he started in 1889. He had quite rightly discovered that there was an opening for a journal which would help to popularize the results of scholarly study, and to render accessible to thoughtful and intelligent readers the materials which are liable to be hidden away in learned periodicals. Reviews of books, articles by able and leading men, homiletic outlines, correspondence upon matters of exegetical interest, helped to render the magazine highly successful, eminently readable, and genuinely useful up to the present day.

I have always supposed that his experience in the early days of *THE EXPOSITORY TIMES* had two important results. In the first place, it revealed, either to him or to his publishers, that he possessed first-rate gifts as an Editor; and, in the second place, it convinced him that there was a pressing need in Great Britain for a Biblical Dictionary that could supply the needs of students and scholars, and remove the reproach of the necessity of continual reference to foreign authorities.

The famous *DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE* (4 vols., 1898-1902; extra volume, 1904) was the monumental work by which he became generally known, and for which he has earned the gratitude of the reading world. He carried out his great scheme with characteristic enthusiasm, patience, tact, and firmness.

The book at once commended itself to students for the reverent tone as well as for the standard of trustworthy scholarship, the well-selected range of subject, and the thoroughness of treatment upon which the Editor insisted.

His subsequent Dictionaries, the one-volume *DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE* (1908), the *DICTIONARIES OF CHRIST AND THE GOSPELS* and *THE APOSTOLIC*

CHURCH, were also all of them most helpful to Biblical students. He most skilfully and successfully secured a great collection of careful and able articles from first-rate scholars.

It is, however, not too much to say that the gigantic undertaking of editing the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF RELIGION AND ETHICS* in twelve volumes (1908-1922) was in some respects the most remarkable achievement by this prince of editors. He obtained as contributors specialists on almost every subject. Writers of very numerous nationalities were glad to co-operate in the production of this colossal work. It has quickly become a standard book of reference; and some of the most eminent scholars of the day having contributed articles, *e.g.*, upon comparative religion, ethics, and religious philosophy, the *Encyclopædia* is bound to possess permanent value.

Others, however, who will have been in closer personal touch with him in his splendid work, will be better able than I to speak of what Dr. Hastings accomplished, and of how he accomplished it.

I only wish to put on record my feeling of intense gratitude to him for the magnificent service which his editorial work has been the means of rendering to the knowledge and study of Holy Scripture.

He was, as I have called him, a prince of editors. But he was a great deal more than that: he was a devoted servant of Christ, and a man inspired with an unquenchable love of the Word of God.

THE MAN.

BY PROFESSOR W. A. CURTIS, D.D., D.LITT., THE UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH.

It is with a fresh pang of sorrowful regret that I take up my pen and write the title of this simple tribute. The passing of Dr. Hastings from his earthly work to his rest and his reward is an event that touches profoundly every heart in Scotland, and a great company far beyond, to whom the cause of religious learning and the advancement of Biblical studies is sacred. Not yet can we measure the meaning of his withdrawal from that editorial chair in Aberdeen from which for so many years an unending stream of theological commissions and directions has flowed to the very ends of the