

**THE PROBLEM OF
THE
FOURTH GOSPEL**

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The problem of the Fourth gospel by H. Latimer Jackson

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J.

BY

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Criticism, The Present State of the Synoptic Problem*
(*Cambridge Biblical Essays*), *The Eschatology
of Jesus*, etc.

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TO
THE MASTER AND FELLOWS
OF
CHRIST'S COLLEGE

.....deep feelings had impress'd
Great objects on his mind, with portraiture
And colour so distinct, that on his mind
They lay like substances, and almost seem'd
To haunt the bodily sense.

WORDSWORTH, *The Excursion*.

PREFACE

IF I venture the following personal explanation, the reason is simply and solely this: I have been advised clearly to define the relations between the present volume and a little work of mine which, published about a dozen years ago, was entitled *The Fourth Gospel and some recent German Criticism*.

Let me accordingly inform the reader that, when asked for a second edition of a work which—so, at all events, people were good enough to tell me—had served a useful purpose, I was for some time loth to acquiesce in such altogether unexpected but certainly encouraging suggestions. It was, indeed, far from being the case that, because the fates had determined that I should stray into Synoptic fields and the region of Eschatological research, I had therefore ceased to be fascinated by the Johannine literature *en masse*, and in particular by the very noble treatise which bears the name of 'John'; on the contrary, I had actually betaken myself to what bade fair to be a prolonged and laborious attempt to trace connecting links between the 'Schmerzenskind der Theologie' (as Pfeleiderer calls the Fourth Gospel) and that great writing of—may I say it?—uncertain provenance which is designated 'The Epistle to the Ephesians.' My hesitation was, of course, partly due to natural reluctance even temporarily to forsake a work which was already rising on the stocks; it was, however, mainly grounded in a difficulty which stared me in the face. To put the matter in a nut-shell: I was speedily compelled to realize that, were any action taken in response to the aforesaid kindly suggestions, it would mean that time must be found for the drastic re-writing of a work which I could but turn to with added dissatisfaction and no small measure of dissent. Mere revision was not to be thought of.

Somehow or other time has been found—or rather made: and in the event the present volume arrives at its completion.