

**EXTRACTS FROM LECTURES IN  
DIVINITY ON IMPORTANT  
SUBJECTS WHICH ARE NOW  
ENGROSSING THE PUBLIC  
ATTENTION**

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Extracts from Lectures in Divinity on Important Subjects Which Are Now Engrossing the Public Attention by George Hill

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**GEORGE HILL**

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FROM  
LECTURES IN DIVINITY

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FROM

LECTURES IN DIVINITY

BY THE LATE

PRINCIPAL HILL

OR

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS WHICH ARE NOW ENGROSSING  
THE PUBLIC ATTENTION

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON  
MDCCLXI

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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SOME weeks ago it was suggested to me that it would be seasonable and of service to publish, from the late Principal Hill's Lectures in Divinity, such extracts as bear on the theological discussions which are engrossing so much of the public attention.

For the last forty years these Lectures have been held in high estimation in Scotland and elsewhere. They present the matured fruit of much research and reflection on questions of infinite importance, and exhibit throughout a dispassionate love of truth with unflinching candour and liberality.

Humble inquirers after the truth as it is in Jesus, who cannot but be startled and grieved by the irreverent and disparaging freedom with which the Sacred Volume has been handled, may be reassured by the calm and deliberate sentiments of a divine so greatly respected as Principal Hill.

The flippant remark of a recent writer, that "the Calvinist, in fact, ignores almost the whole of the Sacred Volume for the sake of a few verses," is in no respect applicable to him. He shows what all intelligent Calvinists well understand, that the defence of the system rests not merely on particular texts, but on sound

philosophical principles, and on the support which it derives from the whole tenor of Scripture.

If, by the blessing of God, the following Extracts shall in any degree allay the agitation and alarm which recent publications have produced, or confirm the faith of sincere and anxious Christians, the purpose for which they are put forth will be abundantly served. There is, in reality, no just cause for alarm. This is not the first occasion when the truths of Scripture have been misrepresented or called in question, when doubts have been expressed of the authority due to the Sacred Volume, and discrepancies, discovered by a searching criticism, have been held to throw discredit upon its veracity. Notwithstanding the confident tone, and the air of novelty and superiority, which the writers referred to assume, they are only reviving objections which again and again have been met and repelled.

To hasty observers the discoveries of science, in other times as well as in ours, have seemed to be irreconcilable with the doctrines or the language of Scripture; but never yet has it been found, after calm and sufficient investigation, that any variance between them exists. Such, we may fairly presume, will continue to be the case. "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the Word of the Lord endureth for ever."

ALEX. HILL, D.D.



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## EXTRACTS, &c.

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### EVIDENCE FOR CHRISTIANITY FROM HISTORY.

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THE truth of Christianity turns upon a question of fact, which, like every other question of the same kind, ought to be judged of calmly and impartially—not by the wishes which it may be natural to form on the subject, but by the evidence which is adduced in support of the fact. We allow the great body of the people to retain all the early prejudices which they happily acquire on the side of Christianity. We allow its full weight to every consideration which is level to their capacity, and which corresponds to their habits; because, what we wish to impress upon them is a practical belief of the truth of religion; and this practical belief may be sufficient to direct their conduct and to establish their hope, although it be not grounded upon critical inquiries and logical deductions. But it is expected that the teachers of religion should be able to defend the citadel in which they are placed against the attack of every enemy, and that they should be acquainted with the quarters which are most likely to be attacked, with the nature of the blow that is to be aimed, and the most successful method of warding it off. With them, therefore, belief ought to be not merely the result of early habit, but a conviction founded upon a close examination