THE EARLIEST SOURCES FOR THE LIFE OF JESUS

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The earliest sources for the life of Jesus by F. Crawford Burkitt

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F. CRAWFORD BURKITT

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BY

F. CRAWFORD BURKITT D.D., F.B.A.

NORBISIAN PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMERIDGE

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This second edition of Sources differs very little from the first, partly because the limited size and scope of the work allowed for little change, but still more because there are very few changes that I wish to make. It may seem to some that I have given excessive space to the Gospel according to Mark, but I am convinced that not even yet is the supreme historical importance of that work sufficiently appreciated either by the general public or by many professed scholars. If my little book has stimulated anyone to study it more closely for themselves, it will not have been written in vain.

F. C. BURKITT. Cambridge, 1921.

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THE EARLIEST SOURCES FOR THE LIFE OF JESUS

I

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

"THE originator of that name,"—Tacitus is speaking of those whom the common people in Rome, as he says, called "Christians" as a term of reproach,—" the originator of that name, one Christus, had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by order of the Administrator, Pontius Pilate." The contemptuous sentence of the Roman historian ¹ is the only information about the life and career of Jesus of Nazareth that has come down to us independently of Christian tradition. So far as it goes, however, it agrees with what we read in the

1 Annals, IV. 44.

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