

**RICHARD HOLT HUTTON
OF 'THE SPECTATOR': A
MONOGRAPH**

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Richard Holt Hutton of 'The Spectator': A Monograph by John Hogben

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JOHN HOGBEN

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'The Spectator'

A MONOGRAPH

BY

JOHN HOGBEN

SECOND EDITION

EDINBURGH

OLIVER AND BOYD

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT AND CO.

1900

RICHARD HOLT HUTTON,

Born 2nd June 1826 ; Died 9th September 1897.

'Buried at Twickenham Parish Cemetery on Tuesday, 15th September 1897. Round his grave were grouped Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Unitarians, in about equal numbers, and in equal grief.'

The Academy, 18th September 1897.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

IN issuing a second edition of this little book there are but two points to which I should like to call attention ; and surely I may be forgiven if I feel a certain pleasure in being able to throw fresh light on both.

The first has reference to the delightful volume known as 'Holiday Rambles in Ordinary Places, by a Wife with Her Husband.' Hitherto, Mrs Hutton has received full credit for her imagined share in the letters. Many critics, indeed, have asserted that a greater charm is to be found in the lady's letters than is present in those of her husband. Admirers of Mr Hutton will learn with interest and surprise that whatever fascination the book may have is due wholly to the editor of the *Spectator* himself. I do not say that the sunshine shed by his companion's presence left no abiding brightness in these letters. Far from it. Nevertheless, the truth is (and I think the fact is here made

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public for the first time), that *all* the letters, without exception, were written by Mr Hutton.

The second point is one of graver moment. It will be remembered that doubt has been expressed whether Mr Hutton believed in the divine birth of Christ. It must be confessed there seemed some ground for doubt. I have no hesitation, however, in saying that any uncertainty on the subject should now be removed. Miss Elizabeth M. Roscoe—whose recent admirable selection from her uncle's *Spectator* articles made so desirable an addition to the volumes bearing his name—assures me that only a short time before the last illness, she had some conversation with him on this very subject, and that, to the best of her knowledge, he accepted the divine birth, though he did not think the Christian Revelation depended entirely on it. This conclusion is borne out by the Rev. Alfred J. Hutton, of Kimberley, (Mr R. H. Hutton's nephew), who points out that the doubtful passage in the essay, 'The Incarnation and Principles of Evidence,'—first published as one of the Tracts for Priests and People—disappeared on its re-publication in the volume of Theological Essays. I may add that Mr Meredith Townsend quite confirms the

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view, that it was only in his early days that Mr Hutton wavered in his view of Christ's birth. Better authorities than these can scarcely be forthcoming.

It will be admitted, I think, by most readers, that the note of this booklet is one of unstinted acknowledgment of its own inadequacy, and of ardent desire to see the modest task undertaken pass into other and abler hands. This being so, it has given unusual pleasure to its writer to mark the very kind manner of its reception at the hands of reviewers. Still greater satisfaction, however, has been his, in possessing the assurance that members of the family of the great journalist, as well as several of those whose literary relationship with Mr Hutton was of the closest and most enduring kind, have looked with gentle and approving eyes on the effort. As for the public, the fact that a second edition is now demanded may be accepted as clear intimation that the book has not outstayed its welcome.

J. H.

EDINBURGH, *December 1899.*

