

**HISTORY OF THE SACRED  
SCRIPTURES OF THE NEW  
TESTAMENT. IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. I; PP. 1-285**

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Eduard (Wilhelm Eugen) Reuss & Edward L. Houghton

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**EDUARD (WILHELM EUGEN) REUSS & EDWARD L. HOUGHTON**

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HISTORY  
OF  
THE SACRED SCRIPTURES  
OF THE 38781  
NEW TESTAMENT

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GRAPHICAL ADDITIONS*

BY  
EDWARD L. HOUGHTON, A. M.

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## PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

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A BOOK which has the honor to present itself to students for the fifth time, and which, after more than thirty years in our fast-living and impatiently progressive age, is still permitted to appear in the market, should not be without a word of preface. Moreover, such a word is not unnecessary as a matter of explanation and apology. The information that the last edition was exhausted and a new one desired came to me wholly unexpectedly. In view of the direction which work in the field of the history of the Bible was more and more taking, I had long since familiarized myself with the thought that, although my method had been approved by many, the results which I had obtained and advocated only mark a standpoint already superseded. And so I had turned my attention to wholly different matters, content that my work had been able to render service for a time, and in the fixed expectation that some other, more in keeping with views now prevalent, would take its place.

That I am permitted to appear once more may be due to the fact that the form into which I have cast the material is one that is appropriate to the idea of the science; that I have cited the literature more fully than this has been done elsewhere; and that more than one series of events, closely connected with the history of the Bible, are here introduced, for which one seeks in vain in the other most widely circulated works of this kind. The addition of these latter, however, I readily admit, is of little importance in the judgment of my contemporaries. For they, for the most part, still ask only after the position which one takes with reference to certain burning questions of criticism. I cannot conceal from myself, therefore, the fact that I have not given satisfaction to professional scholars, and hence cannot expect—even less now than before—that my book will be favorably received on the one side or the other. If I express a doubt with reference to a tradition, be it never so ill-founded, the conservatives miss in the would-be historian the indispensable quality of “objectivity;” if I am unable, doubtless from natural lack of acuteness, to discover the

fine seams by which, it is said, a supposed apostolic writing betrays itself as a piece of patchwork by several hands, the critics have ready the neat epithet of "petty apologist," by which the matter is settled at once.

I by no means complain that both sides alike are dissatisfied. Still less should I think of imagining that I have spoken the final word upon any point. I am convinced that the science which I on my part have striven to promote in some degree will be set before the next generation in a more complete form and with more definite results than is the case to-day and in this work. My book may then take its modest place in the history of the science, like many earlier works, which are still spoken of, perhaps, but little used, after having served their contemporaries for a time and satisfied many.

E. R.

STRASSBURG, *March 23, 1874.*

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