THE MIND OF CHRIST, AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, WHAT DID JESUS BELIEVE?

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The Mind of Christ, an Attempt to Answer the Question, What Did Jesus Believe? by T. Calvin McClelland

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BY

T. CALVIN McCLELLAND, D.D.

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TO

JAMES CRUIKSHANK, LL.D. GEORGE M. VAN DEVENTER HOWARD HAVILAND WALTER S. FINLAY JAMES F. ATKINSON ALFRED G. REEVES

RULING ELDERS IN THE
MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THIS BOOK IS INSCRIBED WITH APPRECIATION
ORATITUDE AND AFFECTION



PREFACE

THE following pages are an attempt to interpret in plain speech the belief of Jesus. There attend upon the worship of every church numbers of strong, spiritual people who are not confessed followers of Jesus, because they misunderstand Him and what He stands for. Christianity, as they understand it, means something unintelligible or unpractical. The religion they need is one which they can confess with all their hearts not only, but also with all their minds. The religion they want is one which will make a vital difference in their "yeses" and "noes," their loves and hates, a religion through which they shall work righteousness, from weakness be made strong, wax valiant in fight, turn to flight armies of distress and injustice. For these and for all earnest people who want to get at the rock-bottom facts of Christianity I have ventured to make this interpretation of the mind of Christ.

Jesus was the first Christian, the kind of Christian men want to be and ought to be, the kind of Christian men can be if only they will think His thoughts, feel His feelings and give themselves up to His master idea. This then, is the vital thing to know, What did Jesus believe? What did God mean to Him? How did He think of Himself and of His fellow men? These are the fundamental questions of modern religion.

In what I have written I disclaim all controversial intent. The thing farthest from my thought is to suggest, or to arouse debate upon any theory of the Person of Christ. For myself none of the creeds, nor all of them put together can adequately express my adoration of the Lord Jesus Christ. But in these chapters I would so present Him that, whatever one's personal metaphysic of Christ, he may unite in the "Song of a Heathen, sojourning in Galilee, A. D. 32,"

"If Jesus Christ is a man,—
And only a man,—I say
That of all mankind I cleave to Him,
And to Him will I cleave alway.

If Jesus Christ is a God,—
And the only God,—I swear
I will follow Him through heaven and hell,
The earth, the sea, and the air."

I cannot forbear expressing my great gratitude to two friends who among many others gave me suggestions which have been worked out in these essays. The one is the beloved Charles Cuthbert Hall, who in his beautiful life and death witnessed so splendidly to his belief in the supreme Lordship