

HEZEKIAH AND HIS AGE

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Hezekiah and his age by Robert Sinker

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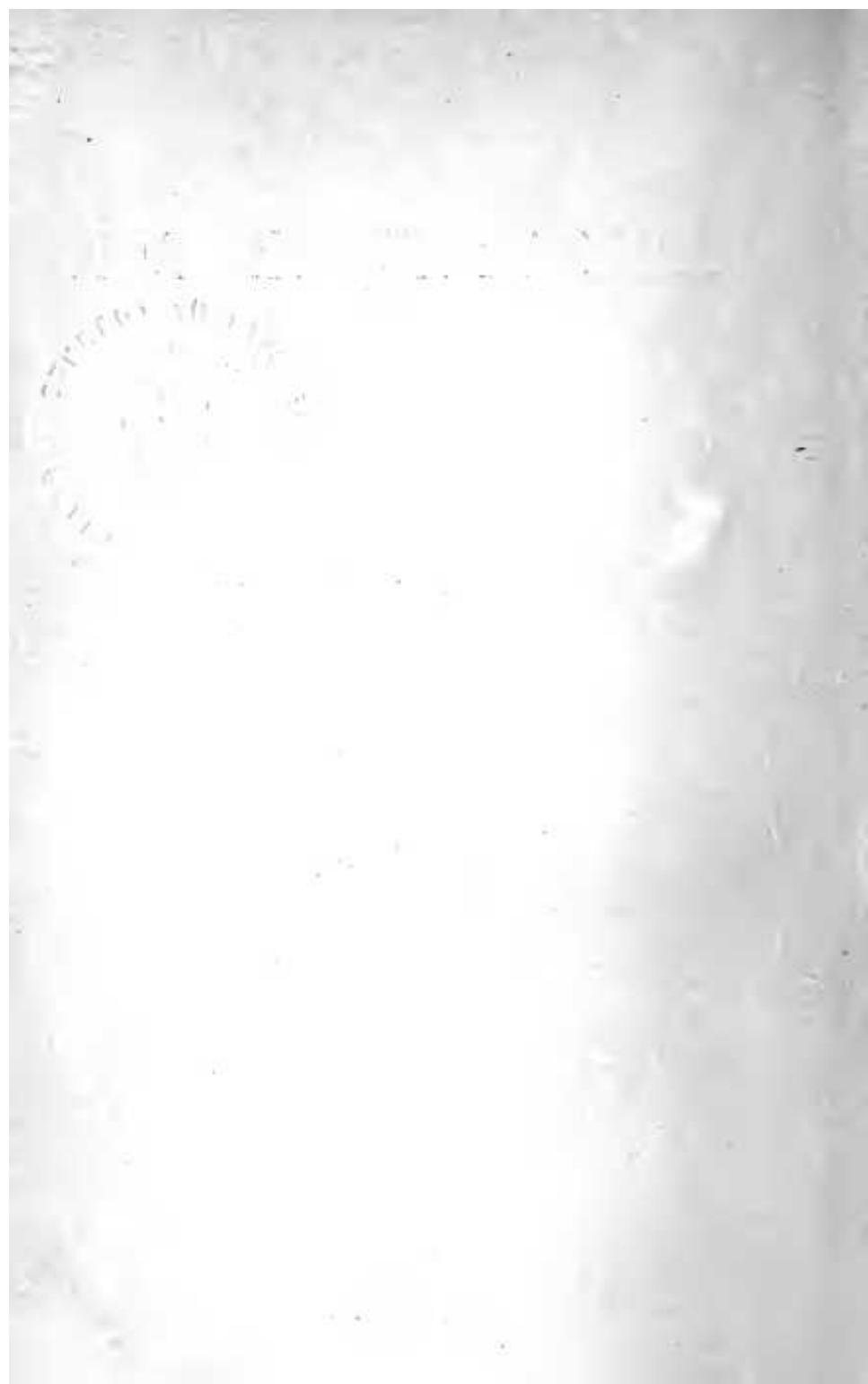


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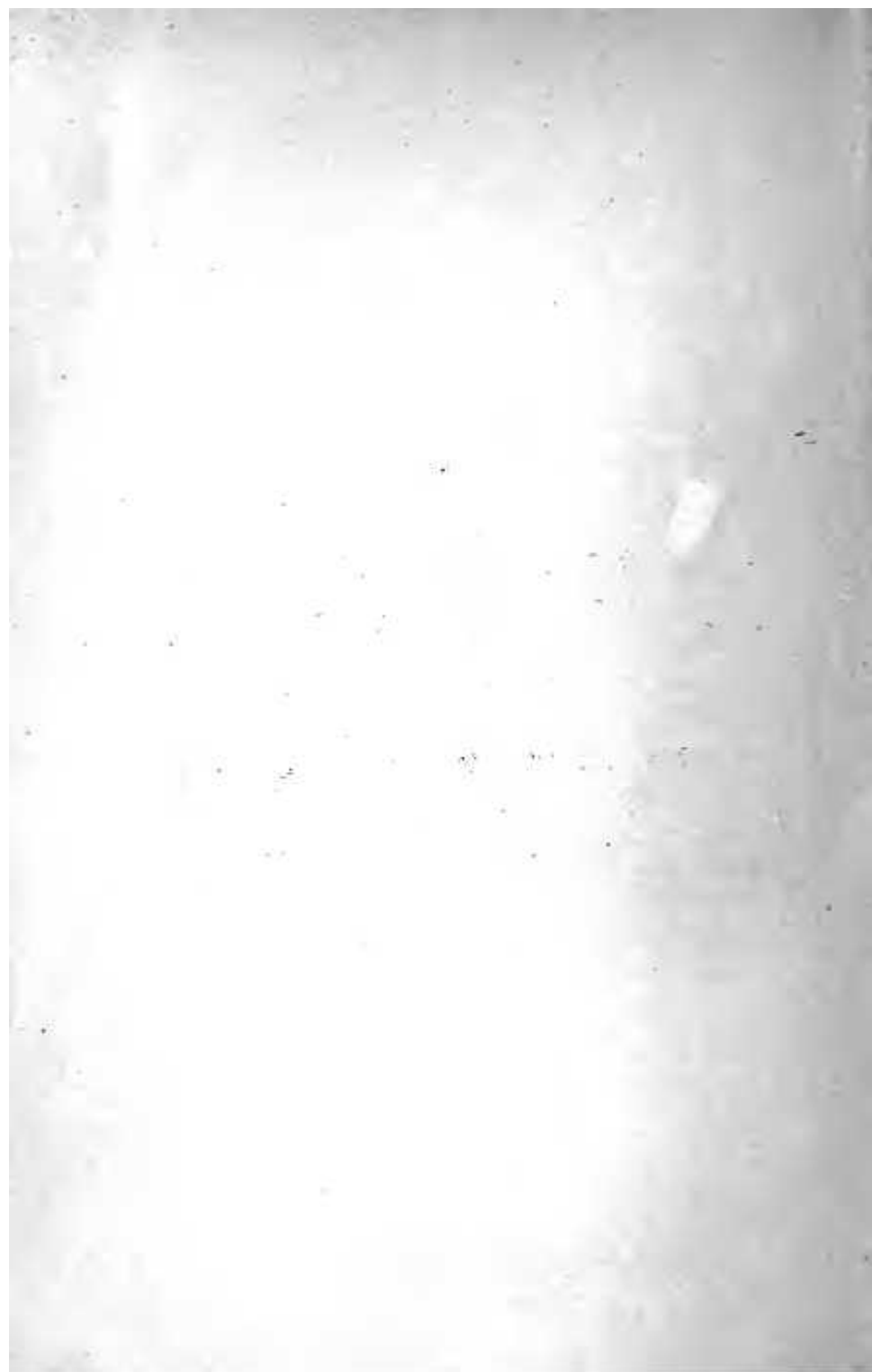
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FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE,

MY FRIEND OF MANY YEARS,

THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY

INSCRIBED.



PREFACE.

IT was my fortune some time ago to hear a distinguished dignitary of the Church preach on the question of the permanent importance of the Old Testament. The preacher evidently seemed to think that the permanent element was not very large. The earlier history of pre-Mosaic times was largely mythical and allegorical; the history of the later kingdom was very inaccurate, when tested by newly discovered records, and was at best but the story of an obscure nationality of Western Asia, dwelling under the shadow of great imperial powers. I wondered what was left; but when the preacher said that there was one book of the Old Testament which answered in a marked way to the cravings of the present day, I at once guessed that he meant the Psalter, alike precious to cottager and to philosopher, to every type of men age after age. My guess, however, was wrong; it was not the Psalter, it was Ecclesiastes, a book which answered strikingly to the pessimistic tendencies of the present age. That Ecclesiastes is really pessimistic we are not at all prepared to admit, but this is not the place to enter into the question: that the pre-Mosaic story is un-historic, however much reckless writers have urged it,