TEXT AND STUDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS TO BIBLICAL AND PATRISTIC LITERATURE, VOL. I, NO. 1: THE APOLOGY OF ARISTIDES ON BEHALF OF THE CHRISTIANS; FROM A SYRIAC MS. PRESERVED ON MOUNT SINAI; PP. 2-118

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J. RENDEL HARRIS

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TEXTS AND STUDIES

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EDITED BY

J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON M.A. FELLOW OF CHENEY'S COLLEGE CAMERIDOR

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FROM A SYRIAC MS. PRESERVED ON MOUNT SINAI

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND TRANSLATION BY

J. RENDEL HARRIS M.A.

FORMERLY FELLOW OF CLARE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE AND NOW PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL LANGUAGES IN HAVERFORD COLLEGE PENNSYLVANIA

WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING THE MAIN PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK TEXT

BY

J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON M.A. FELLOW AND ABSISTANT TUTOR OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE CAMBBIDGE

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PREFACE.

THE first part of this tract contains the Syriac text of the lost Apology of Aristides, accompanied by such comments and elucidations as I have been able to give to the subject. It is my first venture in Syriac, and I am thankful to my learned friends who have from time to time assisted me with suggestions and criticisms for the elimination of some of the more glaring errors. Amongst them I may mention especially Professor Bensly, of Cambridge, and Professor Isaac A. Hall, of New York. In the attempt to give the Armenian fragments of the Apology, in such a form as may make them accessible for critical use, I have had the valuable aid of Mr Conybeare, of Oxford, who placed at my disposal the results of his own work at Edschmiazin.

When the pages were almost through the printer's hands, my friend Mr J. A. Robinson, of Christ's College, by one of those happy accidents, as we call them, upon which progress depends, discovered that substantially the whole of the Greek text was extant, and had been incorporated in that charming half-Greek and half-Oriental story, the Lives of Barlaam and Joasaph. Of course this means that, for the greater part of the Apology of Aristides, we have copies and versions in good number (Greek, Latin, Ethiopic, Arabic, Old French, etc.). This opens quite a new field before the student of Christian Apologetics. Need I say how gladly I make way for him in the Appendix, which will really be the text itself; and that I say in the language of the Acts of St Perpetua: "Hic ordinem totum Apologiae iam hinc ipse narrabit...manu sua et suo sensu."

J. RENDEL HARRIS.

NOTE.

WITH the aid of the photographs taken by Prof. Harris the Syriac text has been carefully revised by Prof. Bensly, who has taken special pains with the reproduction of the punctuation of the MS. There seems occasionally to be some deviation from the ordinary system in the use of the diacritical points: but as it is impossible to tell from the photographs to what date the punctuation belongs, it has seemed better to reproduce it without attempting to mend it.

The English translation was in the first instance made by Prof. Harris: but the discovery of the Greek made it necessary that it should undergo a complete revision, in order that scholars who do not read Syriac might be able to form a better estimate of the relation of the Syriac to the Greek, than could be given by a translation made without any reference to the latter. Moreover in several places the Greek cast new light upon the Syriac where it was obscure before. The task of revision would have been entirely beyond my power, but for the kind patience of Prof. Bensly, who allowed me to read the whole piece through with him. At his suggestion too I have added, within brackets, a few notes in addition to those made by Prof. Harris.

J. A. R.

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