

**THE LIFE OF JESUS,
ACCORDING TO
HIS ORIGINAL
BIOGRAPHERS, PP. 19-295**

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The Life of Jesus, According to His Original Biographers, pp. 19-295 by Edmund Kirke

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EDMUND KIRKE

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TO

THE REVEREND GEORGE T. FLANDERS.

LIFE OF JESUS.

PREFACE.

THIS little volume has grown up in the following manner. Some years since, to acquire a more connected view of the life of Christ than can be gained by a separate reading of the four Evangelists, the writer made, for his private perusal, a monotessaron of the four Gospels, — arranging them so as to relate the same event only once, but to include all the teachings, and all the historical circumstances in one narrative.

Subsequent investigation showed him that he had made some omissions, and many errors in the true order of events; but still, this imperfect compilation, rudely put together in an ordinary Scrap-book, was his only Gospel reading for many years, and from it he obtained so vivid an idea of the daily life of Him who not only "spoke as never man spoke," but who lived as never man lived, that he could almost see him walking the roads, and sitting by the lake-shore of Galilee — and until one does this, he cannot know the wonderful beauty of his most wonderful life.

Not long ago this rude compilation was accidentally seen by a clergyman, whom the writer has the honor to count among his friends, and he recommended that — the text being stripped of the antiquated phraseology of the authorized version, and such brief notes being added as are needed to explain its local and historical allusions — it should be given

to the public. This, after much hesitation, — for he is not a teacher, but a learner, — the writer has concluded to do in this volume.

The order of events which has been followed in the text is, in the main, that adopted by Dr. Robinson in his most excellent "Harmony of the four Gospels." The notes are mostly the result of a very wide, but very desultory reading of Biblical authorities; and the source whence particular parts have been drawn, cannot now, in all cases, be readily ascertained. The most that they contain, however, will be found in the Commentaries of Clarke, Whitby, Olshausen, Norton, Tholuck, Campbell, and Rosenmüller; in Horne's Introduction, Jahn's Archaeology, Critici Sacra, Calaneo's and Smith's Bible Dictionaries, Dr. Thomson's "Land and the Book," Lynch's "Expedition to the Dead Sea," Stanley's "Sinai and Palestine," Neander's "Life of Christ," and Prime's "Tent Life in the Holy Land;" all which works should be read by everyone who would acquire a full knowledge of this most interesting and most important subject.

In the notes no "practical observations," or doctrinal teachings are included. The one who rightly reads the simple record of the life and sayings of Jesus needs no exhortation to a right practice; and, both by his inclination, and by his habits of thought, the writer is unfitted for the exposition — and perhaps also for the understanding — of any system of theology. The grandest truths were uttered by Jesus in the simplest words, — words which the way-faring man, though a fool, can understand, — and he himself said that if any one will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether he spoke from himself.