

**THE GOSPEL AND ITS WITNESSES: SOME  
OF THE CHIEF FACTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR  
LORD, AND THE AUTHORITY  
OF THE EVANGELICAL NARRATIVES  
CONSIDERED IN LECTURES CHIEFLY  
PREACHED AT ST. JAMES'S, WESTMINSTER**

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The Gospel and its witnesses: some of the chief facts in the life of our Lord, and the authority of the evangelical narratives considered in lectures chiefly preached at St. James's, Westminster by Henry Wace

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**HENRY WACE**

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*The Gospel and its Witnesses*

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SOME OF THE  
CHIEF FACTS IN THE LIFE  
OF OUR LORD

AND THE  
AUTHORITY OF THE EVANGELICAL NARRATIVES

*CONSIDERED IN LECTURES*

CHIEFLY PREACHED AT ST. JAMES'S, WESTMINSTER

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Inscribed to  
THE REV. JOHN EDWARD KEMPE, M.A.  
PREBENDARY OF ST. PAUL'S  
RECTOR OF ST. JAMES'S, WESTMINSTER  
CHAPLAIN IN ORDINARY TO THE QUEEN  
BY HIS FORMER CURATE  
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF HIS GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT  
DURING TWENTY YEARS

## PREFACE.

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THE following Lectures were for the most part preached at St. James's, Piccadilly, in 1881, at the invitation of the Rector, the Rev. Prebendary Kempe; but they have been enlarged and supplemented from Sermons since preached at Lincoln's Inn, and before the University of Oxford. The design of the author was to exhibit the real character and results of modern criticism in respect to the authenticity of the Gospels, and, at the same time, to illustrate the credibility and spiritual significance of the main facts in the Evangelical narratives. Accordingly, after showing in the first two Lectures that the critical enquiries of the last fifty years have failed to establish any objections against the traditional authorship of the four Gospels, he has considered the witness of the Evangelists to the main truths respecting our Lord which are recited in the Creed, and in that summary of the Gospel which St. Peter proclaimed to Cornelius. The Lectures thus treat in succession of our Lord's birth; of the name of



JESUS as signifying the purpose of the Gospel; of our Lord's Ministry of power and mercy; of His atoning Death; of His Resurrection; of His Ascension and future return to judgment; and of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Within the limits determined by the nature of such a series of Lectures, the author has endeavoured to show how the various considerations thus reviewed confirm one another, and combine to support the faith of the Church in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*May 1883.*

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### LECTURE I.

#### THE CHRISTIAN CREED AND ITS EVIDENCE.

"The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all :) that word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judæa, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed Him openly; not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins."  
—Acts x. 36-43 . . . . . p. 1

### LECTURE II.

#### THE RESULTS OF MODERN CRITICISM.

"Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren."—Acts i. 12-14 . . . . . p. 23

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"And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."—*Matthew* viii. 5-10.