

**THE IDEALS OF THE PROPHETS:
SERMONS; TOGETHER
WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
HIS PUBLISHED WRITINGS**

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The ideals of the prophets: sermons; together with a bibliography of his published writings by S. R. Driver

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S. R. DRIVER

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BY THE LATE PROF. S. R. DRIVER, D.D., OXFORD

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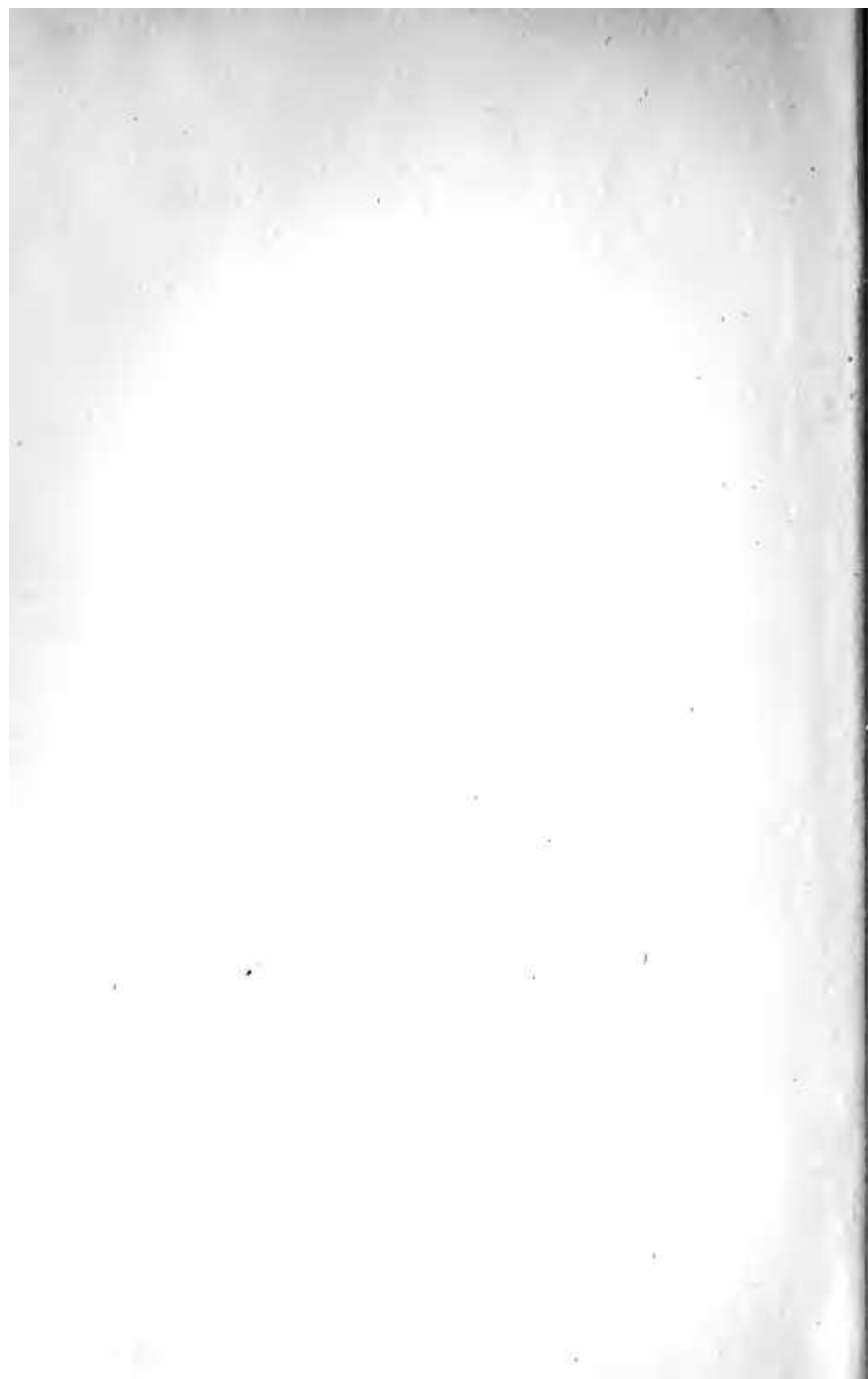
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SERMONS

BY THE LATE

S. R. DRIVER, D.D.

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF HEBREW AND
CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

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PREFACE

BEFORE his death on the 26th of February 1914, Dr. Driver left instructions that a volume of his sermons should be published, and even chose a certain number for the purpose. Four of these, Nos. ix., xi., xix., xx., have appeared in print already; they are reprinted here by the courtesy of the Editors and Publishers of *The Expository Times* and of *The Interpreter*. Dr. Driver's own selection has been considerably enlarged with a view to forming a group, both representative of his ordinary teaching and connected together by a certain unity of subject and treatment. It is evident that he took a special delight in preaching about the ideals of the Old Testament prophets; accordingly most of these sermons will be found to bear upon this topic. All of them were delivered in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, of which he was a Canon in virtue of his office as Regius Professor of Hebrew; he was never connected with any other church; so that the present volume will serve, in some degree, as a memorial of his thirty-two years' ministry there, from 1882 to 1914.

In his preaching, Dr. Driver's aim was to help people to understand the Bible, and especially the Old Testa-

ment; his sermons, therefore, were mainly exegetical, packed with careful information, and noteworthy for an unerring perception of the essential things. What he taught in the lecture-room and in his published writings, he taught also in the pulpit. It has been largely owing to his extraordinary industry and knowledge that English readers have had an opportunity of learning what the Old Testament contains and means; he was anxious that the Cathedral congregation should learn this too. Hence his constant effort to remove traditional misunderstandings, and to show how the Bible may become intelligible, and speak with a living voice to the men and women of to-day.

One point in particular Dr. Driver frequently discusses in these sermons—the fulfilment of prophecy. He would lead us to take a larger, less mechanical, view of the subject than is still widely held; he would have us see that, in this larger sense, the ideals of the prophets were adopted by Christ, and demand Christian conditions for their full accomplishment. How deep was his conviction of the ultimate goal of prophecy, how unflinching his faith in the great Christian verities, appears in every sermon of this collection. He has shown throughout his ministry that a modern Biblical scholar, one of the foremost champions of the new learning, a master in the science of language and criticism, could at the same time handle the sacred text with the reverence traditional among English people, and with his whole heart remain true to the Christian Faith, and fulfil his service as a loyal son of the Church.