

**LETTERS OF PRINCIPAL
JAMES DENNEY
TO W. ROBERTSON
NICOLL, 1893-1917**

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Letters of Principal James Denney to W. Robertson Nicoll, 1893-1917 by James Denney & W. R. Nicoll & J. A. Robertson

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JAMES DENNEY & W. R. NICOLL & J. A. ROBERTSON

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TO W. ROBERTSON
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Ever yours sincerely
James Deane.

LETTERS OF
PRINCIPAL JAMES DENNEY

TO

W. ROBERTSON NICOLL

1893-1917

HODDER AND STOUGHTON LIMITED

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PREFATORY NOTE

THIS volume is not a biography of Principal Denney. The field for that is still clear, and it is to be hoped that it will be occupied. In the meantime, and with the cordial concurrence of his immediate relatives, I have ventured to put together the following selection from his letters to me during an intimate friendship which lasted over a quarter of a century.

Our intercourse began when I invited him to contribute translations to the *Foreign Biblical Library*. Afterwards it made great progress. Principal Denney wrote commentaries in the *Expositor's Bible* and in the *Expositor's Greek Testament*. We discussed together his other books. He agreed to furnish regular contributions to the *British Weekly* which I edited. These were often leading articles, and many of them were signed. Every week almost he sent me some reviews of new books, and their remarkable qualities of incisiveness and scholarship attracted attention and admiration. In sending his contributions he was very often good enough to enclose

a letter, and it is from these letters that I have made up this book. It will be seen that they deal with most of the controversies which disturbed the world during these years. We were not always of the same mind, but we never differed in sympathy. The subjects touched upon in this correspondence are such as the Atonement; the situation created by the action of the House of Lords in the case of the United Free Church of Scotland; the unsuccessful attempt made to establish a magazine for the united Church; the proposals of the Church of Scotland for Presbyterian union; Social Reform; Local Option and State Purchase; and, above all, the war. I have not kept more than a fraction of his letters, but I trust that what remains will be found stimulating and characteristic. Very few omissions have been made from the letters. There was never any venom in Dr. Denney's pen, but he was both keen and frank as a critic. In the Appreciation I have partially reproduced an article I wrote on his death, and have strengthened it with quotations from the tribute paid by his colleague Professor James Moffatt in the *British Weekly*. I acknowledge with much gratitude the contribution made to this book by one of Dr. Denney's

most distinguished students, Professor J. A. Robertson, of Aberdeen. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Denney's intimate friend, the Rev. W. R. Thomson, of Bellshill, for a very suggestive letter, and I thankfully acknowledge the help received from my colleagues Miss Jane Stoddart and Sir Ernest Hodder-Williams; also from the volume of the Rev. T. H. Walker.

HAMPSTEAD, *October 1920.*

