

**THE OXYRHYNCHUS
LOGIA AND THE
APOCRYPHAL GOSPELS**

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The Oxyrhynchus Logia and the Apocryphal Gospels by Charles Taylor

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CHARLES TAYLOR

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THE
OXYRHYNCHUS LOGIA
AND THE
APOCRYPHAL GOSPELS

BY THE

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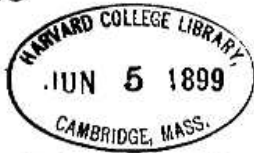
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PREFACE

A LEAFLET of papyrus, found on the site of Oxyrhynchus, in Egypt, in the winter of 1896-7, contains the few short Greek sayings which are the subject of this essay. Their discoverers and first editors, the two Oxford scholars Mr. Grenfell and Mr. Hunt, called them in the same language *Logia*, that is *oracles* (Rom. iii. 2), of JESUS.

The fragment has the appearance of having belonged to a small manual, containing sayings detached from their contexts in some larger and more costly Codex or Codices and fitted compactly together by a compiler, who changed a word here and there, and prefixed the formula of citation *Saith Jesus* to successive paragraphs.

The compositeness of the Logiographer's sections is well illustrated by Logion VII, on the city that 'can neither fall nor be hid,' which blends the saying, 'A city set on a hill cannot be hid,' with the parable of the house which 'fell not; for it was founded upon the rock.' Others of the *Logia*, likewise duplex, which cannot be traced back to the New Testament, may have been derived from one or from more than one of the lost documents of Christian antiquity, such as the Gospel according to the Egyptians, which some suppose to have contained all the sayings on the papyrus.

The latter part of the essay touches upon some things in the Apocryphal Gospels, considered in themselves or in relation to the Oxyrhynchus Logia. In particular it is pointed out that there are seeming traces of the remarkable Logion V in the Gospel of Thomas, a Gospel of the Infancy, to which the writer's attention was first attracted through some acute criticisms by Dr. J. M. Cotterill in his *Peregrinus Proteus* (1879).

Use has been made of Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt's two editions of the text of the Logia; of Professors Lock and Sanday's *Two Lectures* upon them and the works named therein; and of other published dissertations or notes bearing upon the subject, which will be referred to in due course. For valuable suggestions privately communicated I am indebted to Dr. Gifford, Dr. E. A. Abbott, Dr. Rendel Harris, and Professor Bywater.

The essay is founded upon a lecture given in Oxford, at Mansfield College, in the Easter Term of 1898.

C. TAYLOR.

CAMBRIDGE,
March 25, 1899.

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