

**THE GREAT
PASSION-PROPHECY
VINDICATED**

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The Great Passion-Prophecy Vindicated by Brownlow Maitland

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BROWNLOW MAITLAND

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VINDICATED**

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GREAT PASSION-PROPHECY
VINDICATED.

BY THE

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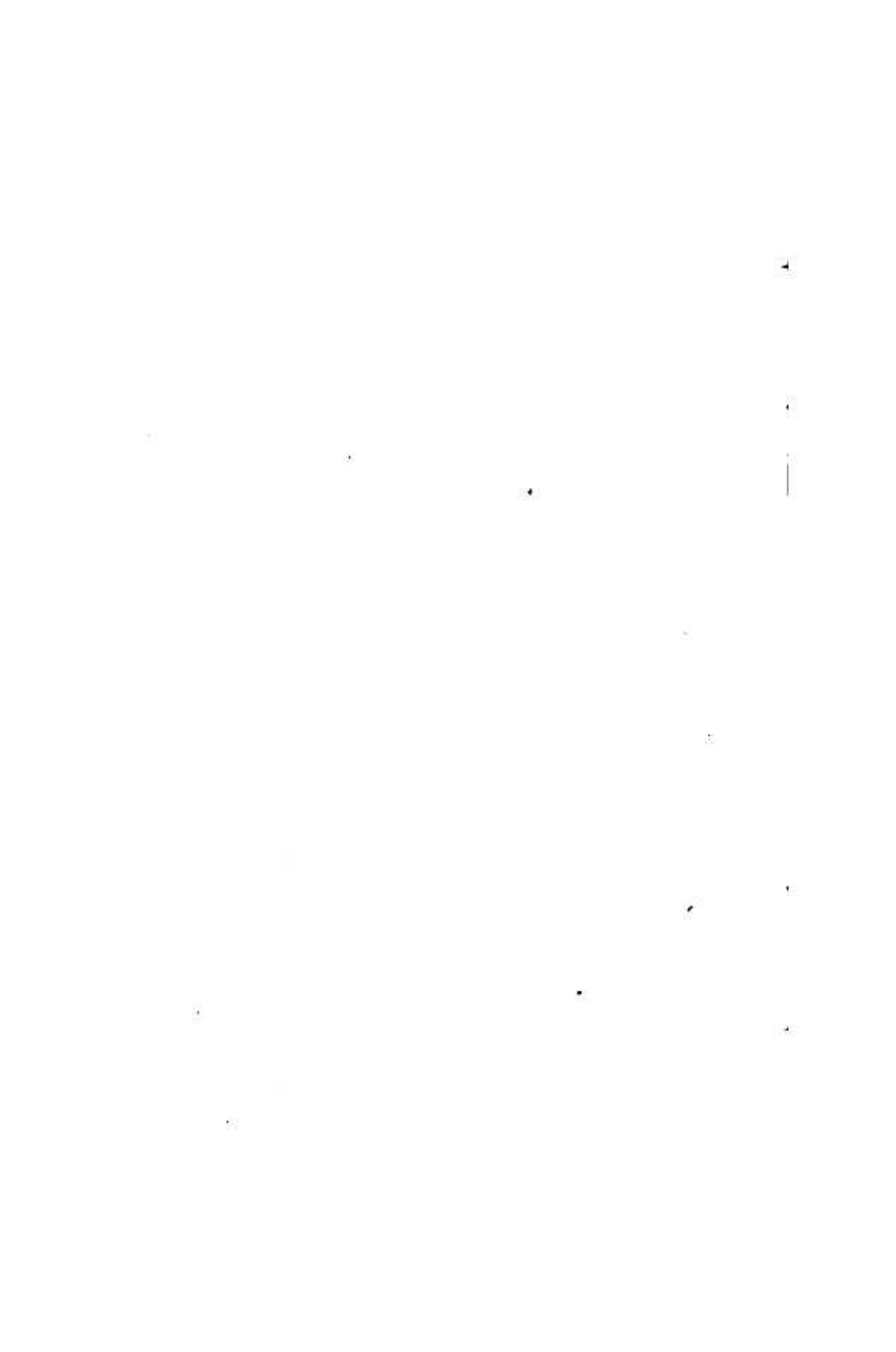
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PART I.
THE METHOD.





THE GREAT PASSION-PROPHECY VINDICATED.

PART I. THE METHOD.

§ 1. *The Christian Interpretation.*

IN the Gatechetical Lectures of St. Cyril, who, in the middle of the fourth century of our era, became Bishop of the city in which our Lord was crucified, we find the following remark: "We preach Christ crucified, Who has already been preached aforetime by the Prophets." By these words the primitive bishop expresses a sentiment which was not peculiar to himself, or even to the Church of his time, but has been the universal sentiment of Christendom in all ages. And if at any period since the rise of Christianity the question had been asked of any believer, man, woman, or child, moderately acquainted with the

Holy Scriptures, "Where above all, most clearly and emphatically, is the prophetic preaching aforesaid of Christ crucified to be found?" the reply with one consent would have pointed to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. Within seven years of the founding of Christianity, it was from this Scripture that the Evangelist Philip preached Jesus to the perplexed Ethiopian enquirer¹. It was in the same Scripture that the aged Apostle, St. Peter, found the most apt expressions to pourtray the guilelessness and innocence of the great Sufferer of Calvary, and His spotless self-oblation for human guilt². It was the same Scripture which occurred to St. Matthew's recollection, when he recorded the healing of the sick by the Prophet of Nazareth³. It was to the same Scripture that both St. Paul and St. John referred, when they had occasion to complain of the slowness of their fellow-countrymen to believe in Jesus as their Messiah⁴. The note thus struck in the earliest days of Christianity has never ceased to be echoed in the hearts of believers, and in the faith of the Church. The wonderful chapter, with the music of its pathetic cadences

¹ Acts viii. 32, 33.

² 1 Pet. ii. 24, 25.

³ Matt. viii. 17.

⁴ Rom. x. 16; John xii. 38.