

**BOOKS FOR BIBLE
STUDENTS;
THE OLD WORLD
AND THE NEW FAITH**

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Books for Bible Students; The Old World and the New Faith by W. Fiddian Moulton

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BOOKS FOR BIBLE STUDENTS

Edited by the

REV. ARTHUR E. GREGORY

THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW FAITH

BY

W. FIDDIAN MOULTON, M.A.

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CHARLES H. KELLY,

2, CASTLE ST., CITY RD.; AND 66, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1896.

THE OLD WORLD AND
THE NEW FAITH.

*NOTES UPON THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
CONTAINED IN
THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.*

By W. FIDDIAN MOULTON, M.A.,
ST. JOHN'S COLL. CAM.;
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London:
CHARLES H. KELLY,
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PREFACE



THIS little book is in no wise intended to augment the already large catalogue of commentaries on the Acts, nor does it pretend to give any systematic account of Apostolic doctrine. Its object is expressed with tolerable exactness by its title, for it is mainly concerned with the relations of the early Church to its environment, both Jewish and Roman. It therefore differs from Dr. Watson's *In the Apostolic Age* in that it views the Church along its circumference, while Dr. Watson views it from the centre; and my purpose closely resembles what he declares, in the opening words of his Preface, to be outside the scope of *his* book, although I had begun writing before I had seen it.

What I have just said renders it almost superfluous to say that of those whose works I have used, to no one do I owe more than to Professor Ramsay, whose *St. Paul as a Traveller and Roman Citizen* is not only a storehouse of learning, but also a perpetual source of inspiration, which is not always true of such storehouses. Occasionally I have taken the liberty of differing from him, availing myself of a young man's undoubted right to criticise his betters; but no difference upon points of detail will ever cause me to forget that his writings, and mainly the book above mentioned, have given me a new and far wider interest in the Acts, which experience I probably share with very many other readers. Next to Professor Ramsay, I have been aided most by Bishop Lightfoot's writings, particularly the dissertations in his commentaries on *Galatians* and *Philippians*, the volume of *Biblical Essays*, published since his death, and the most comprehensive article on the Acts in the new edition of the *Dictionary of the Bible*, which takes the place

of the meagre article contained in the original edition. Paley's *Evidences of Christianity*—a book which owes its unpopularity to its being selected as a pass subject for the Cambridge "Previous," rather than to demerits of its own—afforded me valuable suggestions concerning the points dealt with in Part I. of the Introduction; and from the writings of Professor Fisher, Dr. Pressensé, and Dr. Schaff I also derived much assistance. I owe Professor Findlay my best thanks for allowing me to annex the map from his book on the Pauline Epistles in this series, a book which I never consulted without advantage; and I am also indebted to my friend and colleague Mr. St. J. B. Wynne-Willson, M.A., for his unfailing kindness in giving me the benefit of his classical learning. Finally, and beyond all, I am indebted to my father, not only for his specific instruction upon points concerning which I have consulted him, but for my interest in Bible study which has resulted from constant intercourse with one whose whole life has been spent in that field. But though

this book thus owes to him the greater portion of whatever value there is in it, he is in no wise responsible for its faults of omission or commission, for the stress of his own work rendered it impossible for him to do more than glance through some of the proof-sheets and make a few suggestions at that late stage.

W. F. M.

November 1896.