

**THE DOCTRINE OF
THE AGES, PP.1-163**

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The Doctrine of the Ages, pp.1-163 by Robert Cameron

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ROBERT CAMERON

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THE AGES, PP.1-163**

THE
DOCTRINE OF THE AGES

BY ROBERT CAMERON.

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INTRODUCTION.

The substance of this book, in all of its essential features, was carefully read by the late Dr. A. J. Gordon, in manuscript. He urged its immediate publication, and consented to write an introduction to its pages. Before the closing chapters were completed he had passed away from his useful life. On this account his name has no connection with the book, further than this grateful acknowledgment of his encouraging words.

The learned Dr. Harnack, in his "History of Dogma," when speaking of the Christian's "faith in God as the father of Jesus Christ," makes the following comprehensive statement: "So far as this God is believed to be the omnipotent Lord of heaven and earth, the Christian religion includes a *knowledge* of God, of the world, and of the purpose of created things." These three spheres, then, are the proper objects of our contemplation.

Hitherto the church has studied the character

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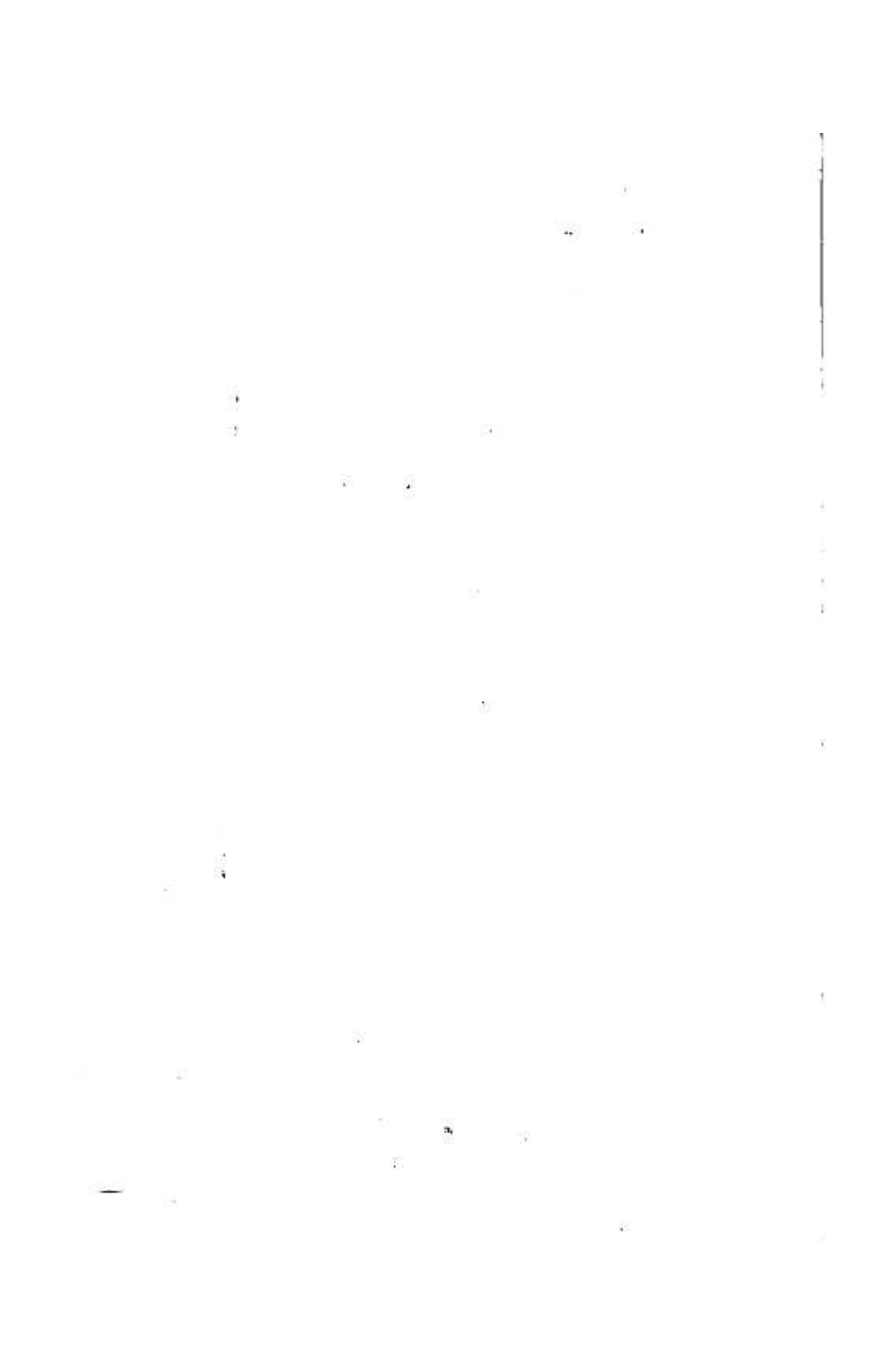
of God, and no small amount of knowledge of the world has been obtained. But "the purpose of created things"—the great end for which all things were made, and toward which they move, together with the advancing steps of the past, as recorded in *history*, and of the future, as revealed in *prophecy*—have been sadly neglected. An attempt is made by the author to revive an interest in the study of this most profound and inspiring theme. During the early days of the Church patristic literature abounds in allusions to the Ages, to their characteristics, and to their promising outcome. Then the doctrine drops out of sight, like some of the "dry streams" flowing under the sand on our western prairies. Recently it has been coming to the surface again to gladden the garden of God. The light which comes out of the truth gathering around this doctrine will be needed in the last days of perilous times, just as much as in the former days of patient endurance and triumphant martyrdom.

The quotations from scripture in this volume are for the most part taken from the Revised or Canterbury version. In a few cases the author has translated literally from the Greek

text, and all students will recognize that the renderings are simply for the purpose of making the meaning more apparent. The reader is not troubled by foot notes, directing attention to quotations from various authors.

With the fervent prayer that our gracious Lord may be pleased to use what has been written to awaken the saints to study these intensely practical truths, and to stimulate the Church to hasten the coming of the Lord who will introduce the good things of the Age to come, this book is now sent forth in His Name.

Watchword Office, Boston, Mass., January 1, 1896.



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