

**GESTA PILATI: OR, THE REPORTS,
LETTERS AND ACTS OF PONTIUS
PILATE, PROCURATOR OF
JUDEA, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
HIS LIFE AND DEATH**

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Gesta Pilati: Or, The Reports, Letters and Acts of Pontius Pilate, Procurator of Judea, with an Account of His Life and Death by W. O. Clough

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W. O. CLOUGH

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GESTA PILATI;
OR THE
REPORTS, LETTERS AND ACTS
OF
PONTIUS PILATE,

PROCURATOR OF JUDEA,

With an Account of his Life and Death:

BEING

A TRANSLATION AND COMPILATION OF ALL THE WRIT-
INGS ASCRIBED TO HIM, AS MADE TO TIBERIUS
CÆSAR, EMPEROR OF ROME, CONCERNING
THE LIFE OF JESUS, HIS TRIAL
AND CRUCIFIXION.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

By W. O. CLOUGH, B. A.

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PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

The publisher, in issuing the second edition of this work, first offered to the American public last year, takes pleasure in announcing that the book is, after rigid review, offered in full confidence, as free from those minor errors that inevitably creep into all first editions.

The value and deep interest that attach to the contents of this book make it alike entertaining to all readers, who take any concern in Sacred Literature; and the general reception it has met at such hands, without regard to denominational lines, manifests the fact of its general importance to all who claim an interest in its remarkable records.

The notices that have followed its perusal from scholarly men, both in and out of the Church, and which have been its only advertisement, are alike gratifying to the editor and publisher, and are the best guaranty of its value.

ROBERT DOUGLASS.



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

The cordial reception of the first edition of the "Reports, Letters and Acts of Pilate" at the hands of ministers of the gospel of all denominations, of many of our most gifted educators in colleges and seminaries, and by many intelligent readers both within and without the church, has induced the editor to put forth the work in its present form, and for the reasons following:

The time is already present when it must be shown that Jesus Christ is an historic person. The life of Jesus is the center of the religious controversies that agitate our age, and the great question that demands solution is whence is the man Jesus? Is he an historical person or is he not? The settlement of this one question, says the eminent Tischendorf, is decisive of the question whether the Church shall or shall not live—the most momentous of all questions which the Church has to encoun-

ter. To rob him of his historic greatness, and yet to think to retain the Christian faith and the Christian Church, is a futile attempt, a vain mockery, says the same eminent critic and writer.

It becomes, therefore, the duty of all Christians, and especially of our clergymen, theological students and professors, to furnish themselves from the armory of history with the weapons that alone can be employed in the overthrow of that unbelief upheld by a well organized movement, which to-day threatens to convert theological science into sophistry, and so give powerful support to the anti-christian spirit of our time. To do this must be done by rigid inquiry in the field of historic research, rather than by any other direction or through any other means. *Jesus* did not scruple to stand before kings or governors, nor scribes or doctors. His *apostles* did not fear to plead before the elders, the priests, the kings, the governors nor emperors. Their advocacy was *fearless because invulnerable* in its claims, whether in an humble Jewish synagogue or in the halls of philosophy, at Jerusalem or in Rome. They spoke well attested facts; they bore incontestable testimony to those facts, and this alone made them invincible and invulnerable.

Can we do the same to-day? Are we invincible