

**THE LORD'S PRAYER
IN THE
EARLY CHURCH**

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The Lord's Prayer in the Early Church by Frederic Henry Chase

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FREDERIC HENRY CHASE

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BY

FREDERIC HENRY CHASE B.D.

PRINCIPAL OF THE CLERGY TRAINING SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE

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1891

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TO
JOHN PEILE Litt. D.
MASTER OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE.
WITH
THE RESPECTFUL AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE
OF
A FORMER PUPIL.

PREFACE.

IN the following Essay I have treated the Lord's Prayer simply from the point of view of criticism. Of the sacredness of the Prayer, both because Christ taught it to His disciples and because His disciples have used it 'from the first day until now,' I am deeply conscious. But I believe that no subject however sacred lies outside the rightful province of the critic who regards reverence and the endeavour after accuracy as elementary duties.

Besides those obligations to others which are noted in the Essay from time to time, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to thank Professor Robertson Smith for answering several questions as to the exact translation of the Arabic version of Tatian's Diatessaron as to which I have no first-hand knowledge; also the Rev. R. H. Kennett, Fellow of Queens' College, for valuable criticism in connexion with my references to the Syriac Versions and for rescuing me from some of the perils which are the proverbial portion of 'a little learning'; he is however in no way responsible for my arguments, conclusions and mistakes. Several other friends have given me the kindest help in the revision of the proof-sheets; to them too my hearty thanks are due.

To one other debt of a wholly different kind I must briefly allude. In the discussion of the petitions for Daily Bread and for Deliverance I have treated of subjects previously handled by Bishop Lightfoot. For many generations to come workers in those fields of Biblical and Patristic literature, which he had made his own, will recognise with reverent gratitude two characteristics of his writings, their suggestiveness and their power of inspiration.

On the one hand they supply both a firm foundation and a plan for future work; on the other hand they quicken and invigorate the worker. It is vain to try to formulate in a brief statement the manifold debt which the younger generation of students owes to the Bishop. But I venture to hope that this Essay may be an illustration however unworthy of the suggestiveness of his work to which I have referred.

I have only to add that this Essay was accepted by the Divinity Professors as an exercise for the degree of B.D., and that I have to thank the Regius Professor for giving me permission to make a few slight additions and alterations before publication.

CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
July, 1891.

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