

**THE FIRST EPISTLE OF ST PETER I.
I-II. 17: THE GREEK TEXT,
WITH INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,
COMMENTARY AND
ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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The First Epistle of St Peter I. 1-II. 17: The Greek Text, with Introductory Lecture, Commentary and Additional Notes by F. J. A. Hort

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I. 1—II. 17

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THE GREEK TEXT

WITH

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE, COMMENTARY, AND
ADDITIONAL NOTES

BY THE LATE

Fenton John Anthony

F. J. A. HORT, D.D., D.C.L., LL.D.

SOMETIME HULSEAN PROFESSOR AND LADY MARGARET'S READER IN DIVINITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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INSCRIBED TO

BONAMY PRICE

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
FORMERLY MASTER OF THE TWENTY
IN RUGBY SCHOOL

IN GRATITUDE FOR TEACHINGS
OF EXACTNESS AND OF REALITY
IN LANGUAGE IN HISTORY
AND THROUGH AND ABOVE BOTH
IN THEOLOGY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE Notes contained in this volume are a fragment of a Commentary on the New Testament which was definitely planned in 1860. For some time Dr Lightfoot, Dr Hort and myself had discussed the question in various forms; and in the spring of that year¹ a scheme for the distribution of the Books was adopted which guided in a great degree our later work. The Epistles of St Paul were assigned to Dr Lightfoot: the Synoptic Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles of St James, St Peter and St Jude to Dr Hort: the Gospel and Epistles of St John fell to me. Two books were not finally assigned, the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Apocalypse. Dr Lightfoot was unwilling to undertake the former, nor could I undertake the latter. There was hope for a time that Dr Benson would have dealt with the Epistle to the Hebrews², and he has in fact left an exposition of the Apocalypse which will I trust be published before long.

No detailed method was adopted for the execution of the work; but we were fully agreed on general principles. It seemed to us that the New Testament should 'be interpreted as any other book,' with loyal obedience to the strictest rules of criticism, to the most exact scholarship, and to the frankest historical inquiry. So only, we believed, could the unique character of the Scriptures be rightly appreciated as 'containing all things necessary to salvation.' There were natural differences between us in the application of our principles: one looked primarily to the vivid realisation of the original meaning of the text, another to

¹ *Life of Hort* I. 417 (April 1860).

² *Id.* I. 422.

the determination of the elements of philosophical theology which it contained, another to the correspondences of different parts of the apostolic records which suggest the fulness of the vital harmony by which they are united. But varieties of temperament never led to the least departure from the common endeavour to interpret the text with scrupulous and unprejudiced fidelity without any assumption or any reserve. This, we held, was required by the divine claims of the Books themselves. "A number there are" says Hooker 'who think they cannot admire as they ought the "power of the word of God, if in things divine they should attribute "any force to man's reason.' The circumstances which called forth this remark contrast strangely with the main controversies of the present day; but the caution is equally needed. The abnegation of reason is not the evidence of faith, but the confession of despair. Reason and reverence are natural allies, though untoward circumstances may sometimes interpose and divorce them!.' The records, we held, bring us into fellowship with the living Lord. "Though the Gospel is capable of doctrinal exposition, though it is eminently fertile in moral results, yet its substance is neither a dogmatic system nor an ethical code, but a Person and a Life."

As soon as the plan was formed Dr Hort began to work at the Synoptic Gospels¹. Interesting discussions arose as to questions which would require to be dealt with in the Introduction, and the rough list which Dr Hort gives in a letter of December 11th 1860 shews the large view which he took of the task committed to him². Afterwards a joint volume of Essays suggested by 'Essays and Reviews' was considered as preparatory to the Commentary³, but the plan fell through under the pressure of other engagements.

Before very long Dr Hort turned from the Synoptic Gospels to the Catholic Epistles. In 1862 he was 'not without hopes of getting [a volume containing St James, St Peter, and St Jude]

¹ Lightfoot, *Preface to Galatians*, pp. xi f. 1865.

² *Life* 1. 423 (May 1860); 429; 434 ff.

³ *Life* 1. 434 f.

⁴ Lightfoot, *Preface to Philipians*, p. ix. 1868.

⁵ *Life* 1. 438.

'to press before the end of [the] next year!'. The work on St James was pressed on through serious interruptions¹. In 1864 he writes: 'by way of work I do nothing² but St James and N.T. 'text'; and a little later, 'whenever I have leisure, I sit down to 'St James, where I now feel myself really afloat. Some sixty 'pages are actually written³.' He purposed at that time to publish this Epistle in a separate volume, with a series of illustrative Essays of which he fixed the subjects provisionally⁴. St James was one of the first subjects on which he lectured at Cambridge⁵. And Dr J. B. Mayor expressed in the dedication to him of his own edition of the Epistle, which appeared shortly after Dr Hort's death, with what high expectation the completion of his St James was looked for⁷.

As Hulsean Professor Dr Hort lectured on 1 Peter in the Easter Terms of 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887 and in the October Term of 1882: as Lady Margaret's Professor in the Easter Term of 1892, the last course of Lectures which he delivered⁶. The present volume contains the portions of these Lectures which were either fully or approximately prepared for the press⁸. And

¹ *Life* i. 452.

⁴ *Life* ii. 7.

² *Life* i. 470 f.; ii. 7 f.; 12; 35.

⁵ *Life* ii. 49.

³ *Life* ii. 4.

⁶ *Life* ii. 172, 229.

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Viro Reverendo

F. J. A. HORT S.T.P.

sacri textus ad pristinam formam revocandi

diligentissimo peritissimoque auctori

haec quaecumque studia

quae utinam difficillimae epistolae lectoribus

splendidiorem lucem editionis Hortianae jam dudum desiderantibus

aliquid saltem lucis afferre possint

a vetere amico et condiscipulo

Dedicantur

1892.

⁸ It may be of interest to add that the last Lecture dealt with 1 Peter i. 17-19.

⁷ Dr Chase has kindly given me the following account of his own work in editing the MS.: "The Commentary

" was written out by Dr Hort in a final form as far as p. 34, col. 2, line 6.

" From that point his MS. required from time to time some slight verbal revision: the sentences had sometimes to be readjusted or expanded. From that