

**THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR  
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.  
THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE  
CORINTHIANS**

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The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. The First Epistle to the Corinthians by J. J. Lias

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THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE  
**CORINTHIANS,**

*EDITED WITH NOTES AND INTRODUCTION*

BY

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PREFACE  
BY THE GENERAL EDITOR.

THE General Editor of *The Cambridge Bible for Schools* thinks it right to say that he does not hold himself responsible either for the interpretation of particular passages which the Editors of the several Books have adopted, or for any opinion on points of doctrine that they may have expressed. In the New Testament more especially questions arise of the deepest theological import, on which the ablest and most conscientious interpreters have differed and always will differ. His aim has been in all such cases to leave each Contributor to the unfettered exercise of his own judgment, only taking care that mere controversy should as far as possible be avoided. He has contented himself chiefly with a careful revision of the notes, with pointing out omissions, with



## PREFACE.

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suggesting occasionally a reconsideration of some question, or a fuller treatment of difficult passages, and the like.

Beyond this he has not attempted to interfere, feeling it better that each Commentary should have its own individual character, and being convinced that freshness and variety of treatment are more than a compensation for any lack of uniformity in the Series.

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## INTRODUCTION.

### CHAPTER I.

#### CORINTH. ITS SITUATION AND HISTORY.

AT the time of the Apostle's visit, Corinth was the most considerable city in Greece. Its commercial importance had always been great. Situated on a narrow neck of land between two seas<sup>1</sup>—the far-famed Isthmus—the temptations to prefer commerce to war, even in times when war was almost the business of mankind, proved irresistible to its inhabitants. The command of the Isthmus was no doubt important in a military point of view; but at a time when navigation was difficult and dangerous<sup>2</sup>, the commercial advantages of the position were enormous. Merchants arriving either from the East or from the West, from Italy or Asia Minor, could save themselves the risk of a hazardous voyage round the Peloponnesus, and found at Corinth both a ready market for their wares, and a convenient means of transport. Corinth, therefore, had always held a high position among the cities of Greece<sup>3</sup>, though the military genius of Sparta and the intellectual and political eminence of Athens secured to those two states the pre-eminence in the best periods of Greek history. But in the decline of Greece, when she had laid her independence at the feet of Alexander the Great, the facilities for trade enjoyed by Corinth gave it the first place. Always devoted to the arts of peace, in such a degree as to incur the contempt of the Lacedæ-

<sup>1</sup> Ovid (*Mét.* v. 407) and Horace (*Od.* l. 7. 2) call it *bimaris Corinthus*.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Malea, now St Angelo, was "to the voyages of ancient times, what the Cape of Good Hope is to our own." Conybeare and Howson. Vol. 1. ch. xii.

<sup>3</sup> Corinth early founded colonies, of which the most famous were Syracuse in Sicily, and Corcyra, known to the Italians as Corfu, but still retaining in Greek its ancient name *Κέρκυρα*.