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THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF CHRIST

ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGION

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EXPANDED FROM A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CONGRESS AT AMSTERDAM, SEPTEMBER 1903

BY

OTTO PFLEIDERER

PROFESSOR OF THROLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

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THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

IT is to the great and abiding credit of the scientific theology of the nineteenth century that it has learned to distinguish between the Christ of Faith and the man Jesus of history, two entities which have been identified by ecclesiastical dogma. By means of careful and toilsome critical investigation it has been shown how the dogma of the God-man gradually took form, precipitated as it were from the intermingling of religious ideas of various origin with the reminiscences of the early Church concerning the life of her Master. An attempt has then been made, by means of