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DOCTRINAL SERIES.  
(FOURTH ISSUE) THE NATURE  
OF THE ATONEMENT**

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**WILLIAM ADAMSON**

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THE NATURE  
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THE ATONEMENT.

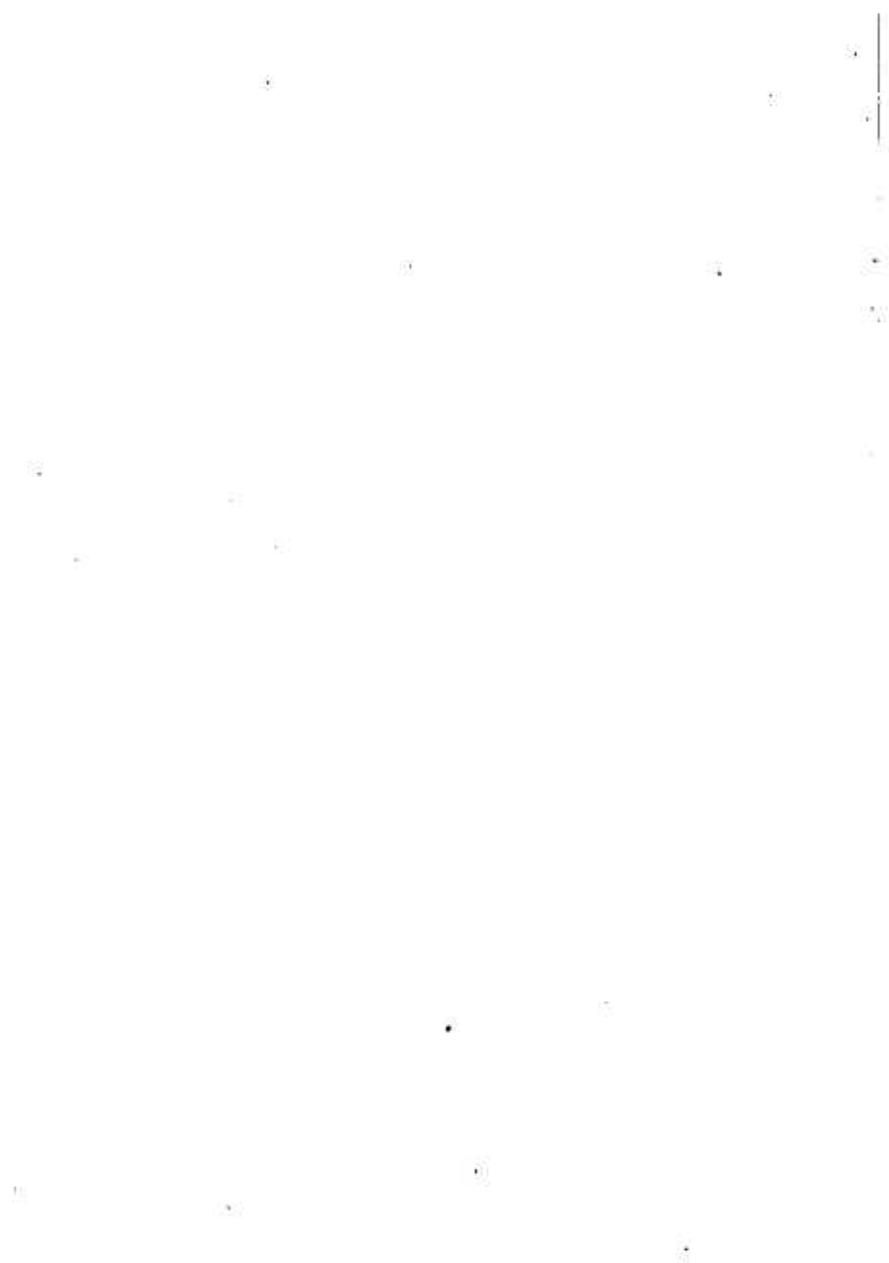
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## PREFACE.

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SOME one has observed that Atonement by sacrifice runs through all history and all portions of the Bible. To say the least that can be said on the subject, it must be admitted that it lies very near the conscience of man, and is bound up with his spiritual well-being. It is the duty, therefore, of all Christian teachers not only to have clear conceptions of the fundamental doctrine of the Christian Atonement, but also to expound it as opportunity presents itself to those who will read, or who may hear their words. It is a matter of thankfulness that not a few able and earnest writers have recently turned their attention to the subject of sacrifice and atonement; and that some of the more important

controversies of the times gather around the person, life, and work of Jesus Christ. Others may see in this signs of degeneracy, but I look upon it as harbingers of increased vitality. Indeed, in our estimation, whatever has the tendency to lead to a profounder study of man's nature and spiritual condition, and God's works, words, and ways, must do good. It will uproot error, strengthen faith, and flood the mind with light from the source of all life and bliss.

Our aim in the following brief chapters has been more of a positive, than of a controversial character. Believing, as we do, that almost all theories of the Atonement contain some truth, and that no single theory contains all the truth, we have freely admitted the good wherever found, and given it a place in the exposition of our doctrine. At the same time, we have stated our objections to ideas which seem to us to be contrary to both Scripture teaching and fact. The positive statements, however, will be found to be the chief characteristics of the book. We believe, with an

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eloquent preacher, that "the refutation which is to last must be positive, not negative. It is an endless work to be uprooting weeds; plant the ground with wholesome vegetation, and then the juices, which would have otherwise fed rankness, will pour themselves into a vigorous growth; the dwindled weeds will be easily raked out then. It is an endless task to be refuting error; plant truth, and the error will pine away." This has been our endeavour, according to the conditions of space in which we had to write. We have considered the Atonement as made known in Scripture, and as formulated in theology, and this has necessitated a certain amount of repetition in its treatment. That anything like a complete view of the transcendent reality has been given, is not thought of for an instant. All, indeed, which is attempted is to give outlines and suggestions which may be serviceable to those who have neither the inclination nor time to study the master works on the doctrine. If this is done to any extent, the writer will be more than rewarded for what has been to him