

**MEMORIALS OF THE HON. ION KEITH-  
FALCONER, M.A., LATE LORD'S  
ALMONER'S PROFESSOR OF ARABIC IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, AND  
MISSIONARY TO THE MOHAMMEDANS  
OF SOUTHERN ARABIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649093533

Memorials of the Hon. Ion Keith-Falconer, M.A., late Lord's Almoner's professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, and missionary to the Mohammedans of Southern Arabia by Robert Sinker

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ROBERT SINKER**

**MEMORIALS OF THE HON. ION KEITH-  
FALCONER, M.A., LATE LORD'S  
ALMONER'S PROFESSOR OF ARABIC IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, AND  
MISSIONARY TO THE MOHAMMEDANS  
OF SOUTHERN ARABIA**





*Yours affectly.*

*Ion Keith-Falconer*

# MEMORIALS

OF THE

HON. ION KEITH-FALCONER, M.A.,

LATE LORD ALMONER'S PROFESSOR OF ARABIC IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE, AND MISSIONARY TO THE MOHAMMEDANS  
OF SOUTHERN ARABIA.

BY THE

REV. ROBERT SINKER, D.D.

LIBRARIAN OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF  
THE ROYAL BOHEMIAN SOCIETY OF SCIENCES.

WITH PORTRAIT AND MAP.

*"Ατιστα ἢν μοι κ' ἔρη, ταῦτα ἕγγισται εὐὰ τὸν Χριστὸν ζημίαν.—PHIL. iii. 7.*

*SIXTH EDITION.*

CAMBRIDGE:  
DEIGHTON, BELL AND CO.  
LONDON: GEORGE BELL AND SONS.  
1890.

LIBRARY  
KNOX COLLEGE  
TORONTO

## PREFACE.

A CAREER of exceptional promise was early closed in the death of Ion Keith-Falconer. The beauty of his character, his ardent missionary zeal, his great learning, form a combination rarely equalled; and the feeling was very generally expressed last summer, especially in Scotland, that an attempt should be made to portray the many-sidedness and goodness of that life. It was represented to his family that it was a duty "to make the story of such a life the possession and the stimulus of the Church and the country."

When I was honoured with the request to write the Memoir of my late dear friend, I could but feel it was too sacred a trust to be refused.

How noble a life his was, how unselfish, how worthy to be loved, those who knew him know well; how hard it is adequately to set forth, on the one hand, its harmonious beauty, on the other, the rich variety of its aspects, I am very fully conscious. Still even the simple record of his life is its truest encomium. Its essence may be summed up in St. Paul's words, "I count all things but loss for Christ."

The numerous letters with which I was entrusted by the members of his family and others, to whom my grateful thanks are due, give a fulness to the narrative which it must otherwise have lacked. Many will learn, perhaps to their surprise, how many were the interests of one whom they knew or heard of in one aspect only.

My especial thanks must be given to my friend of many

years, the Rev. H. C. G. Moule, M.A., Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, who has aided me with his counsel and help at every stage of my work, and to whom I owe many valuable suggestions, while the book has been passing through the press: and to Dr. George Smith, C.I.E., Secretary for Foreign Missions in the Free Church of Scotland, who has kindly allowed me to appeal to him constantly for information as to the details of the South Arabian Mission.

In conclusion, I humbly commit this book to God's blessing. May He, Who has called His servant home to Himself, grant that some hearts may be quickened into a fuller love towards Him, a deeper zeal, by the record of a life devoted to His service.

R. S.

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
*February 2, 1888.*

#### NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

IN the second and subsequent editions, a very few details have been added to the account of the Shaikh Othman Mission. No change calling for any remark has been otherwise made.

I cannot send forth this new edition without expressing my thankfulness for the welcome accorded to the earlier editions of this book. That welcome both marks a widespread appreciation of the noble character I have sought to portray, and is a symptom of the remarkable growth of interest in the cause of Foreign Missions, which the last few years have witnessed in our country.

The portrait in the present edition is a reproduction of a photograph taken by Mr. Vernon Heath.

*March 6, 1890.*



## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
CHAPTER II.	
HOME, CHILDHOOD, SCHOOL . . . . .	7
CHAPTER III.	
STUDENT LIFE AT CAMBRIDGE . . . . .	31
CHAPTER IV.	
EVANGELISTIC WORK : BARNWELL AND MILE-END . . . . .	62
CHAPTER V.	
LEIPZIG . . . . .	88
CHAPTER VI.	
ASSIOUT : HOME . . . . .	105
CHAPTER VII.	
CAMBRIDGE : MARRIAGE : KALILAH . . . . .	120
CHAPTER VIII.	
ADEN . . . . .	139

## CHAPTER IX.

PROFESSORSHIP OF ARABIC . . . . .	167
-----------------------------------	-----

## CHAPTER X.

SHAIKH OTHMAN . . . . .	194
-------------------------	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

CONCLUSION . . . . .	229
----------------------	-----

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

Portrait of Professor Keith-Falconer . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Map of the Country near Aden . . . . .	<i>To face page 142</i>

MEMORIALS  
OF THE  
HON. ION KEITH-FALCONER, M.A.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

"The rest of Scotland's war-array  
With Edward Bruce to westward lay,  
Where Bannock, with his broken bank  
And deep ravine, protects their flank.  
Behind them, screened by sheltering wood,  
The gallant Keith, Lord Marshal, stood:  
His men at arms bear mace and lance,  
And plumes that wave, and helms that glance."

SCOTT, *Lord of the Isles.*

In the reign of Malcolm II., King of Scotland, a battle was fought at Barry in Forfarshire, in the year of our Lord 1010, with an army of Danish invaders, who were signally defeated. Their leader was slain by a young Scotch nobleman, Robert Keith, as the name would now be spelt, who for his valour was created by the king Hereditary Great Marischal of Scotland, and was rewarded with lands, some of which, in East Lothian, still bear the name of Keith. The king is said to have dipped his fingers in the blood of the Danish chief and to have drawn three vertical bars on the shield of his follower;