

# **HANDBOOK OF CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES**

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Handbook of Christian Evidences by Alexander Stewart

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**ALEXANDER STEWART**

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CHRISTIAN  
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CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES

BY

ALEXANDER STEWART, D.D.

PRINCIPAL AND PRIMARILY PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

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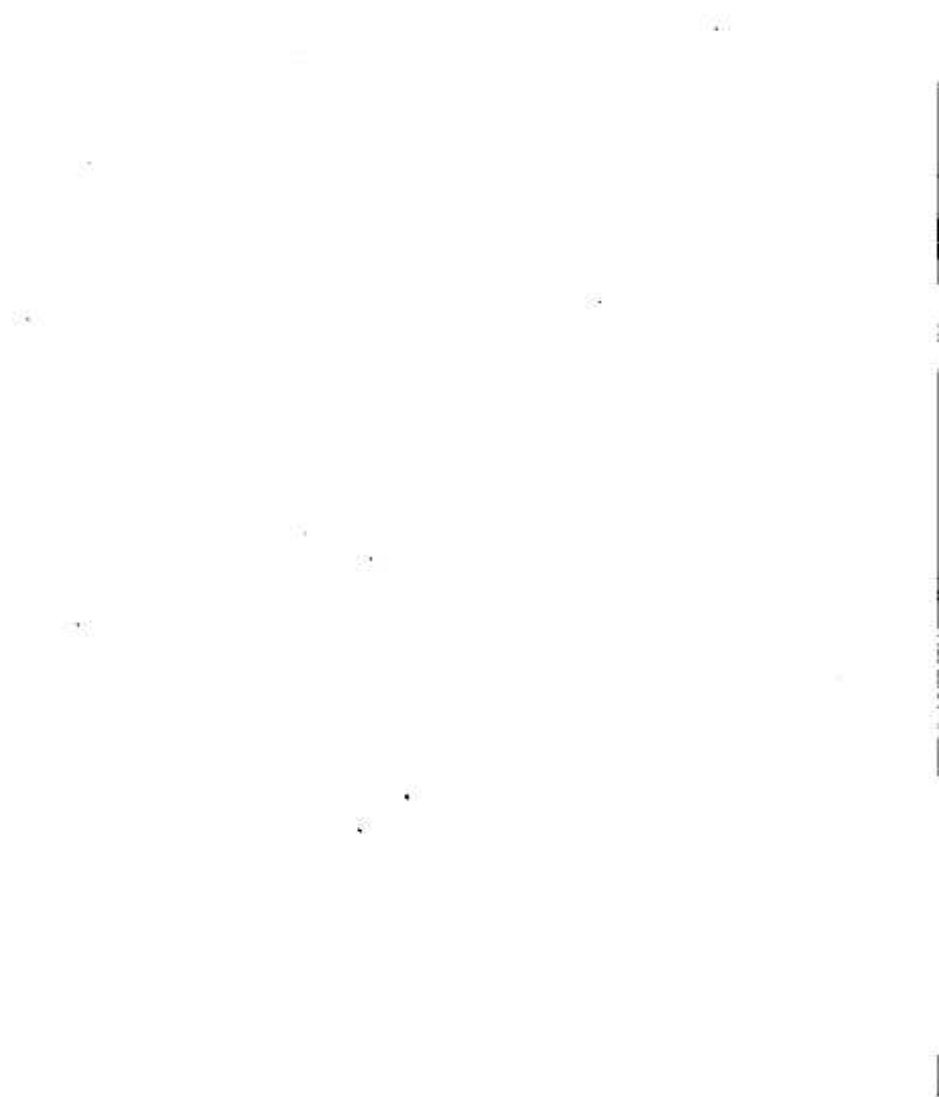
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## GENERAL EDITORIAL NOTE

THE Editors of the Guild Library—on behalf of the Christian Life and Work Committee of the Church of Scotland—desire to acknowledge the generous appreciation with which the Series, in its original cheap form, has been received. It has been welcomed by members and representatives of many Churches in Great Britain and in the British Colonies and in the United States of America. Various friendly readers, as well as the enterprising publishers in New York (Messrs. Randolph and Co.), have suggested the publication of an enlarged edition; and it is hoped the present issue, in response to the desire thus expressed, will be the means of introducing the books to a still wider circle of readers in both hemispheres. It will be understood that while the Editors are in full sympathy with the aims of the Authors, they do not hold themselves bound to all their opinions.

A. H. CHARTERIS.

J. A. M'CLYMONT.





## PREFACE

THIS Handbook was originally prepared at the request of the Life and Work Committee of the Church of Scotland as one of a series intended to be used in Guilds and Bible Classes. While this was its immediate occasion, a further aim of the writer has been to furnish within the smallest possible compass what might serve as a basis for oral instruction, or for private study on a more extended scale. There are many excellent Handbooks of Christian Evidences, but none, so far as known to the writer, specially suitable for this purpose. His aim has been to condense his material as much as possible, so as to embrace a somewhat wide range while going sufficiently into detail to illustrate all points of importance, and make clear the drift of the main argument. The difficulties which beset the task chiefly arise from two causes—first, the extent of the subject itself, and secondly, the varying circumstances of those who are expected to use the book. It was impossible to include within the limits assigned even a *survey* of the subject in all its ramifications; and it was, therefore, necessary to make a selection of topics. But again, the ways of thought characteristic, for example, of young men dwelling amidst the busy life of the town, in contact with the discussions of the workshop and the office, and acquainted with the periodical literature of the day in which the deepest questions are freely dealt with, are very different from those of the inhabitants of the country

village or homestead; the doubts which are suggested on every hand to the educated have never, it may be, occurred to many others. Had everything, however, been excluded which might not readily be apprehended by the least intellectually trained of those into whose hands the book may come, much would certainly have been missed by many of those whom it is desired to influence and help. The writer believes that no more unfortunate impression can be made upon the minds of young men than that difficulties are being shirked because they are hard to meet. It is not his wish to represent that the chain of argument here set forth as Christian Evidences is unattended with difficulties. If, however, the reader will use along with this Handbook one or more of the larger works recommended, there should be few of the topics discussed which will not become intelligible and interesting to all earnest minds, and none, it is believed, which will not be found of considerable importance.

As it was *one* tree which was the tree of the knowledge at once of Good and Evil, no labourer in this field can divest himself of the fear that where he meant to strengthen faith, he may be but suggesting doubts which did not before exist. The writer prays that this may be as little as possible the result of the present effort. Rather may many come to see more clearly the reasonable foundation on which their faith rests, and be assured that if they seek truth and love goodness, neither despairing of the one nor deserting the other, they will find and rejoice in Him who is the Truth and whose goodness is eternal.

ALEXANDER STEWART.

## NOTE TO READERS

THE present edition contains a supplementary chapter and a body of Notes. The Notes afford further discussion or illustration of points referred to in the text. An index has also been added.

With a view to the convenience of Teachers who may be using the smaller book (to be had of the same publishers) in their classes, the chapters have been numbered as before, the additional section which is practically an extension of the second chapter being distinguished as Chapter II., Part II. Otherwise, with the exception of necessary corrections and a few foot-notes, the text remains unaltered.

It is recommended that some discretion should be exercised by the Teacher as to the chapters and paragraphs to be made the subject of special study. He will know best what will suit the needs of his pupils,—what, if anything, lies outside their interest or beyond their capacity. The chapters can be divided into lessons as may be found most suitable.

The paragraphs in large print are intended to be studied with special care, the substance, at all events, being firmly lodged in the memory. The small print contains the explanation and illustration of those paragraphs. A list of books recommended, with notes referring to them in connection with each chapter in the Handbook, will be found on pages 151 to 153.