

**THE THEOLOGY AND
THEOLOGIANS OF SCOTLAND:
CHIEFLY OF THE SEVENTEENTH
AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES**

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The theology and theologians of Scotland: chiefly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by
James Walker

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CARSWATH.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE Trust-deed of the founder requires that each course of Cunningham Lectures shall be published within a year after their delivery. No doubt a law like that could not be meant to be enforced under exceptional circumstances. The illness of a lecturer would doubtless be accepted by the Trustees as a sufficient reason for an extension of time. Unfortunately in the case of Dr. Walker that excuse has existed. In the spring of last year, almost immediately after the delivery of the Lectures, he was laid aside from work of every kind, and has been obliged to spend the winter abroad. The interest produced by the Lectures, however, at the time of their delivery, was so great, that their speedy publication was earnestly pressed by many friends; and this, combined with other things, led to his being asked to consent to their publication in his absence. To this arrangement he was naturally at first quite averse; but

being most anxious to fulfil the conditions of the Trust-deed, and not to delay the publication of his Lectures until perhaps another volume of the series might be due, he agreed to commit his manuscripts to our care, and to leave us to judge whether they were fit, as he had left them, for the press.

The issue of the present volume shows the conclusion to which we have been led. As might have been expected, we have had many difficulties to encounter; but the Lectures seemed to us to contain so much that was fitted to interest and stimulate, as to make an indefinite delay in their publication extremely undesirable. Although the work now appears under great disadvantages, we are confident that it will be welcomed by all friends of the Scottish Church as an acceptable contribution to an important department of its literature.

It is right to explain further, that none of the proof-sheets have been seen by Dr. Walker, and that he is therefore not to be held responsible for any mistakes that may possibly have occurred in connection with the deciphering of his manuscripts. Had he been his own editor, he would of course have given all his authorities, and likewise appended illustrative notes. It was also part of his plan to complete the discussion of his subject by adding four Lectures to the six that were delivered.