

**THE WESTMINSTER NEW
TESTAMENT. THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW:
WITH INTRODUCTION AND
NOTES**

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The Westminster New Testament. The Gospel According to St. Matthew: With Introduction and Notes by David Smith

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DAVID SMITH

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THE
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○
THE WESTMINSTER NEW TESTAMENT

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GENERAL EDITOR

ALFRED E. GARVIE, M.A.(OXON), D.D.(GLAS.)

PRINCIPAL OF NEW COLLEGE, LONDON

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MOTTO PREFIXED TO THE GOSPEL
BY ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

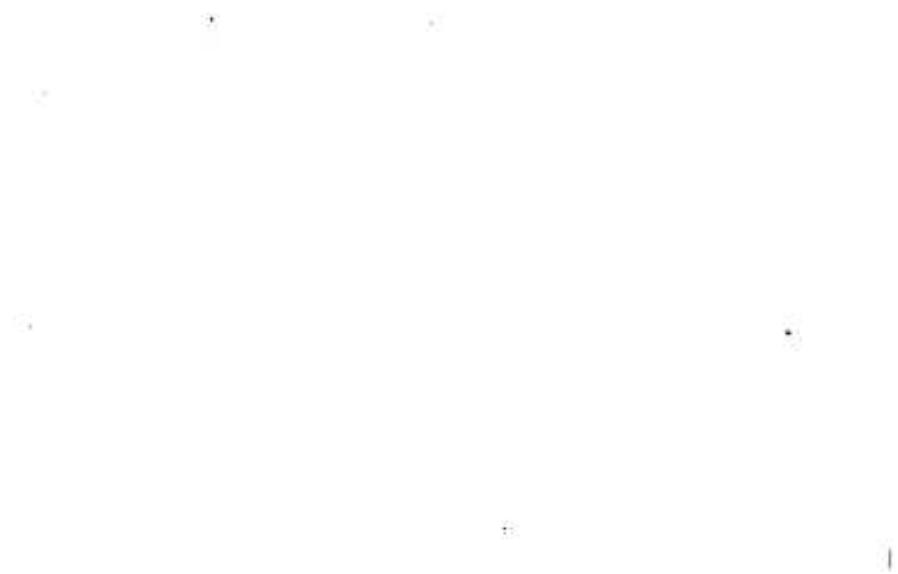
"Upon the high mountain get thee up, thou that preaches the Gospel to Sion: lift up thy voice in strength, thou that preaches the Gospel to Jerusalem; lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah: Behold, your God; behold, the Lord God will come in strength, and his arm will rule: behold, his reward is with him."—ISA. xl. 9, 10, VULG.

PREFACE BY THE GENERAL EDITOR

HAVING carefully selected the editors of the ten volumes of which the Westminster New Testament will consist, and having fully explained to them the purpose of the series, the General Editor is leaving them the greatest possible liberty; and the editor of each volume is alone responsible for the opinions expressed in it. It is hoped that thus any lack of uniformity will be amply compensated for by the varied interest which the free expression of his own individuality by each editor will impart to the series. While the standpoint adopted is that of modern critical scholarship, only the generally accepted results, and not the vagaries of individual critics, are being presented, and in such a fashion as to avoid unnecessarily giving any offence or causing any difficulty to the reverent Bible student. As the series is intended especially for teachers, lay preachers, and others engaged in Christian work, their needs are being kept particularly in view, and the Commentary aims at being as practically useful as possible. A new arrangement in printing the text and the notes has been adopted, which it is believed will be found an improvement.

A. E. GARVIE.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.



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INTRODUCTION.

THE First Gospel, pronounced by Renan "the most important book of Christendom—the most important book which has ever been written," enjoys, like the Fourth, the distinction of being reputedly the work of an Apostle. It has gone from the earliest days under the name of Matthew, the tax-gatherer of Capernaum who was called by the Master from his seat in the custom-house, and signalised his conversion by a banquet in his house, bidding to it not only Jesus and His disciples but his own former associates, that he might confess to the latter his new allegiance (Matt. ix. 9-13 = Mark ii. 13-17 = Luke v. 27-32). His name had been Levi (Mark, Luke), but, according to the custom of the day, when he became a new man, he got, like Simon and Saul of Tarsus, a new name, Matthew, "the Gift of Jehovah" (cf. Greek *Theodore*). His training had made him "a ready writer" and fitted him for the