

**SOME DIFFICULTIES  
IN THE LIFE OF OUR  
LORD**

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Some Difficulties in the Life of Our Lord by George S. Cockin

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**GEORGE S. COCKIN**

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IN  
THE LIFE OF OUR LORD

BY THE  
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## PREFACE

EVERY thoughtful man and woman finds some difficulty or difficulties in the life of our Blessed Lord. With some these difficulties seem to be of so great consequence that until an explanation is forthcoming they refuse to believe in our Lord's claims and teaching, and to accept Him as their Lord and Master. It is useless to point out the folly of such a method of proceeding ; for they will be satisfied with nothing less than a solution of their difficulty.

This unpretentious volume has been compiled to serve this purpose. It contains nothing new, nothing original. It is a book of scraps, in which the difficulties most frequently expressed are briefly dealt with. The chapters of this book I have divided into sections, each section dealing with one incident or discourse from our Lord's earthly life. Each section is complete in itself.

I take this opportunity of expressing my warmest thanks to the Rev. T. Bingley Boss, M.A., of West Didsbury, for his invaluable suggestions and help in preparing this book.

And now I send forth these pages, praying God to bless

them in the cause of truth and godliness, and to make them sufficient to remove the difficulties from the minds of some ; and hoping that those who read, as they more perfectly understand the incidents and discourses of Him about whom these pages are written, may be led to live that life which is His only to bestow—the life of 'faith in the Son of God.'

G. S. C.



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## CHAPTER I

### THE NATIVITY

IT is impossible for any theologian to explain to his own satisfaction or the satisfaction of others all the several events connected with the birth and infancy of our Lord. It was the work of God, a supernatural communication of the Divine nature for the moral and spiritual renewal of man, and to venture an explanation on each part of that work would be a task as futile as it would be foolish. But whilst we cannot explain everything, there are some things, difficult though they may be, we can explain, and these will occupy our attention in this chapter.

#### THE GENEALOGIES (Matt. i. 1-16 ; Luke iii. 23-28).

Our Lord, we are taught, was supernaturally conceived, yet the genealogies in Matthew and Luke seem to preclude that conception by tracing His descent through Joseph. If this be the right method of reading these genealogies, must we deny altogether the work of the Holy Ghost in connection with our Lord's birth, and attribute that birth to the operation of another? For if He be the Son of Joseph, where is the room for the supernatural conception? Professor B. Weiss holds that it is manifestly absurd to give the genealogy of a man who was not the real father of our Lord, but only His supposed father, and