

**ORACLES OF GOD:  
STUDIES IN THE  
MINOR PROPHETS**

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Oracles of God: studies in the Minor Prophets by W. E. Orchard

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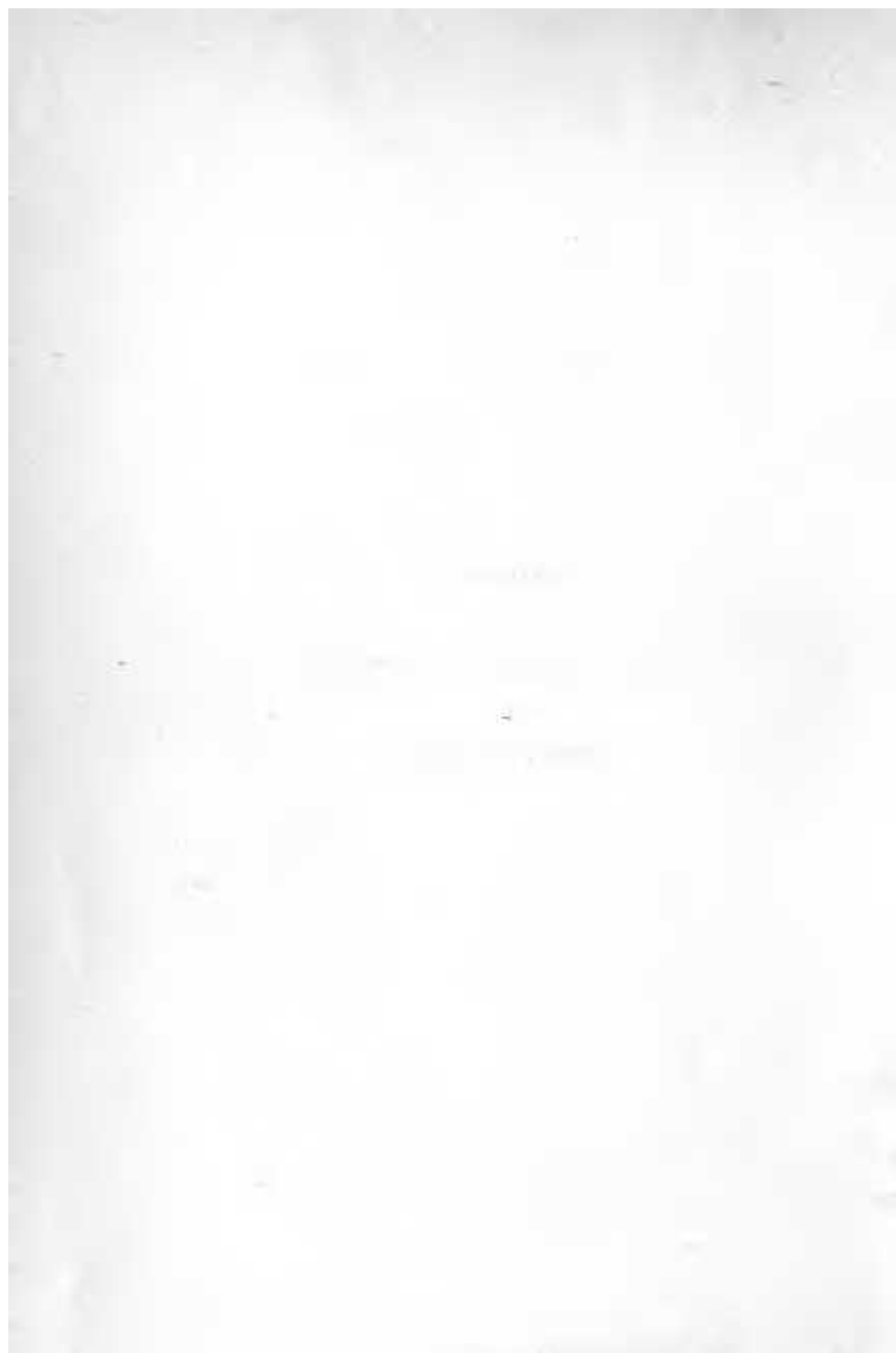


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THE PROPHETS



## PREFACE

THE purpose of the present series precludes this book from being a detailed commentary on the Minor Prophets, and indeed such can be found plentifully provided elsewhere; but it is an endeavour to appreciate the personalities of the prophets and to estimate their contribution to religious, ethical and social thought. It has been sought to bring out especially the light their message throws upon present-day problems. Where so much good work has already been done on this subject it is difficult to say anything new, but an endeavour has been made in the present volume to discover what the message of the Minor Prophets means when taken as a whole, the one being allowed to correct the other, and thus a broader interpretation of God's word to them being gained. It is a temptation to be so impressed by the force and writing of the earlier prophets as to depreciate the more confused



## Preface

utterance, prosaic outlook and lower concern of some of the later prophets ; they certainly belong to the "Silver Age" of prophetic literature, but it is believed, and in this volume pleaded, that their message is of distinctive value and serves to correct a certain almost inhuman loftiness and negative programme which necessarily occurs in the earlier writers, whose message was of doom and whose programme was iconoclastic. But, taken together, and their varying notes woven into harmony, there is conveyed a sense of the wholeness of the revelation made to them even though it had to be ministered "at sundry times and in divers manners."

W. E. ORCHARD.

The King's Weigh House,  
*S. Columba, 1922.*

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