

**A MEMOIR OF THE CHRISTIAN
LABORS, PASTORAL AND
PHILANTHROPIC, OF THOMAS
CHALMERS, D. D. LL.D.**

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A Memoir of the Christian Labors, Pastoral and Philanthropic, of Thomas Chalmers, D. D. LL.D.
by Francis Wayland

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FRANCIS WAYLAND

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BY
FRANCIS WAYLAND.

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1864.

PREFACE.

THE "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Dr. Chalmers, by his Son-in-law, Dr. Hanna," have been for several years in the possession of the Christian public. The work is exceedingly well written, and presents as complete a view of the character and labors of its illustrious subject as could be desired. In order, however, to accomplish his object, Dr. Hanna was obliged to present in detail a large amount of matter, relating particularly to Scotland, and of no special interest in this country; so that the work is extended to four volumes. This fact has, we fear, in some measure limited the number of its readers.

Besides this, I apprehend that Dr. Chalmers generally appears before us as the author of the Astronomical Sermons, of the Evidences of Christianity, of one of the Bridgwater Treatises, and of many works on Political Economy, and probably as one of the most celebrated pulpit orators of his age. That this view is a true

one there is no doubt, but it is not all the truth. There is another phase of his character, which is in danger of fading out of view. He was a devout and self-sacrificing Christian, a most laborious and successful pastor, an humble and indefatigable visitor among the poor and degraded, and his whole life was deliberately consecrated to the work of sending the gospel, with its life-giving power, to every family of the neglected masses of his countrymen. These traits of his character are, we think, not sufficiently known, or, if known, they do not press themselves upon the public with the power of a most remarkable example.

Having recently had occasion to recur to the Life of Dr. Chalmers, a passage or two so interested me that I read the whole work for the second time. It seemed to me that if this particular aspect of his character could be presented by itself, with the single object of exhibiting the parochial and philanthropic labors of this excellent man, his modes of doing good, and the general principles by which all his efforts were directed, something might be done for the cause of religion and benevolence. I immediately undertook the work. At first I intended no more than to prepare a pamphlet, but the subject grew under my hands, and the result has been the following little volume.

In the preparation of the work, I observed that a large part of the matter adapted to my purpose was narrative, and much of it statistical; the events were frequently surprising, and the statistics quite unprecedented. It seemed better, therefore, on all subjects concerning which any question might arise, to use the precise language of Dr. Chalmers's biographer, in whom all reliance may be placed. A large part of the work is thus presented in the words of Dr. Hanna. The passages are not commonly designated by quotation marks, it being supposed that this general acknowledgment would be sufficient.

Some time after the volume was completed, and was in fact already in the hands of the publishers, I received a copy of the "Life of Chalmers," published by the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society. I read it at once with care. The design of the author I found was quite different from my own. His work is properly an abridged Life of Chalmers, designed for general reading. The present little work is not strictly a *Life* of Dr. Chalmers, but, as has been already intimated, a memoir of that particular phase of his character which was dis-

played in his Parochial and Philanthropic labors, and is designed specially to aid, by his precepts, example, and general principles of action, both ministers and private Christians, who are, with him, laboring to promote the best interests of man. With designs so different, I hope the books will not appear as rivals, but as co-workers in the cause of Christ, and be useful to the persons for whose benefit they are each specially intended.

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