

**THE GREAT MYSTERY OF  
GODLINESS INCONTROVERTIBLE;  
OR, SIR ISAAC NEWTON AND THE  
SOCINIANS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649025664

The Great Mystery of Godliness Incontrovertible; Or, Sir Isaac Newton and the Socinians by E. Henderson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. HENDERSON**

**THE GREAT MYSTERY OF  
GODLINESS INCONTROVERTIBLE;  
OR, SIR ISAAC NEWTON AND THE  
SOCINIANS**



# The Great Mystery of Godliness

INCONTROVERTIBLE;

OR,

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

AND

THE SOCINIANS

FOILED IN THE ATTEMPT TO PROVE A CORRUPTION IN  
THE TEXT, 1 TIM. III. 16,

*Θεὸς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί.*

CONTAINING

A REVIEW OF THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THE PASSAGE ;  
AN EXAMINATION OF THE VARIOUS READINGS ;  
AND A CONFIRMATION OF THAT IN THE RECEIVED TEXT ON PRINCIPLES  
OF GENERAL AND BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

BY

E. HENDERSON,

PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY AND THE ORIENTAL LANGUAGES<sup>d</sup>  
AT HIGHBURY COLLEGE.

LONDON:

HOLDSWORTH AND BALL,

18, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

M DCCC XXX.

## P R E F A C E.

---

Most of what is contained in the following pages was composed without any view to publication. The Author was led, in preparing a course of Theological Lectures, to investigate the different passages of Scripture to which an appeal is usually made on the subject of our Lord's Divinity, and to decide on the legitimacy and amount of the proof furnished by each, according to approved principles of biblical criticism and exegesis. While prosecuting this inquiry, he came, in order, to the important text, 1 Tim. iii. 16, and entered at some length into an examination of the authorities for and against its various readings: the result of which was, a decided conviction that the reading of the Textus Receptus is fully borne out by the testimonies to which it is proper to refer on questions of this nature.

With the presentation of such evidence as he had been able to collect to the view of those com-

mitted to his tuition, he was disposed to remain satisfied ; and nothing would have induced him to commit what he had written to the press, but the attempt which has recently been made by the Socinians to derive advantage to their cause from the name of Sir Isaac Newton, of whose " Historical Account of Two Notable Corruptions of Scripture," they have published a new edition. Convinced, as the Author had been by the perusal of a former edition of this work, of the total failure of that illustrious individual in his endeavour to substantiate the charge which he brought against the passage in question ; and perceiving the renewed effort that was made to give all the eclat that the celebrity of his name would impart to opinions which there is every reason to believe he would have held in utter abhorrence, and which have justly been designated " the most delusive and dangerous of all that ever assumed the Christian name ;" he deemed it a duty which he owed to the primitive faith, to the Inspired Record of that faith, and to the public, to place the subject in its just and proper light, and furnish such information respecting the controversy as might conduct those who are induced to study it, to a rational and satisfactory result. If he has ex-

pressed himself with some degree of confidence, in reference to the result of his own investigations, he hopes it will not be imputed to a spirit of dogmatism or self-sufficiency. Conclusions which have been arrived at, in reference to this text, and defended by such men as Mill, Bengel, Venema, Wesseling, Berriman, Baumgarten, Ernesti, Titmann, Knapp, Greve, Woide, Royard, Voorst, Wardlaw, Laurence, Nolan, Burton, Moses Stuart, and others whose names might be mentioned, the Author of the present publication need not be afraid to avow.

With the personal or private character of the *Socinians*, the writer has nothing to do. Nor does he employ the name as a term of reproach. He finds it used by Sir Isaac Newton, and even by Mr. Belsham, in different parts of his writings, where he speaks of "the *old* Socinians; and cannot rid himself of the idea that it is, after all, the most convenient term to be employed. To that of "Unitarian," the body can advance no exclusive claim; and "Anti-Trinitarian" only expresses their hostility to one particular doctrine, whereas there is scarcely any thing that is *peculiar* and *essential* to Christianity, which they do not reject.



In representing the *modern* Socinians as attempting to prove a corruption in our text, the Author does not wish to convey the idea, that any of them has entered into a fresh investigation of the question. He has in vain looked for any thing of the kind. The note of Mr. Belsham, in his work on the Epistles, contains little more than a repetition of the stale remarks of Dr. Clarke; and, indeed, the time seems to have gone by in which it was deemed advisable to support or defend their sentiments by an open and candid application of verbal criticism. In the present instance, their effort consists simply in the publication and circulation of Newton's tract; in doing which they tacitly acknowledge their persuasion of the justness of his conclusions, and their own inability to throw further light on the subject.

May every reader have his mind duly alive to the infinite importance of religious truth, open to the reception of its evidence, and ready to obey it in all its practical dictates!

*Canonbury Square,  
July, 1830.*

## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
Introductory Remarks—Sir Isaac Newton no Socinian—Design of the New Edition of his Tract—Importance and general bearing of the Passage, 1 Tim. iii. 16—How Sir Isaac came to write upon it—History of his Remarks—His mode of conducting the Investigation—The charge of Falsification brought against Macedonius—Strictures on the Story of Liberatus and Hincmarus, and the Passages adduced from Nestorius, Cassian, and Cyril—Sir Isaac's several Hypotheses relative to an Interpolation refuted—The two Parts of his Work inconsistent with each other . . .	1

### CHAPTER II.

Nature of the Evidence by which the Question is to be decided—The principal Readings— <i>a. 3, which</i> —MS. authority—Codex Clarom.—Itala, Vulgate, Peshito Syriac, Ethiopic, Armenian, Coptic, Sahidic and Erpen. Arabic Versions—Fathers—Printed Editions . . . . .	23
---	----

### CHAPTER III.

#### B. 'OC, WHO.

The Reading 'OC not that of the Alex. and Ephreme MSS.—The Opinions of Wetstein, Velthusen, Woide, and Less, on the latter MS.—Inconsistency of Griesbach— <i>3s</i> not supported by the Cod. F.—but found in G. 17 & 73—No Ancient Version decidedly favours it—nor is it borne out by the Fathers—Printed only in two Editions . . . . .	37
---	----

## CHAPTER IV.

## γ. ΘΕΟΣ, GOD.

	PAGE
Of the Codd. B. E. and H.—Catalogue of 171 MSS. which read Θεός—New Edit. of Scholz—MSS. in British Museum—Reading of the Alexandrian Codex—Griesbach's Admission—Age of the MSS.—Philoxenian Syriac, Arabic, Slavonic, and Georgian Versions support the reading Θεός—The same borne out by Testimonies from the Fathers—Notices of the Critical Editions in which it is found—Recapitulation of the External Evidence . . .	44

## CHAPTER V.

Internal Evidence—Both $\delta$ and $\delta\epsilon$ ungrammatical—Opinions of Nolan, Bloomfield, and Jones—The Parenthetical Construction, which refers $\delta\epsilon$ to Θεοῦ ζῶντος, harsh and strained—Proofs that a Person is the subject of the several Propositions—Meaning of the Terms employed to express these Propositions—Conclusion . . .	73
APPENDIX . . . . .	87

## ERRATUM.

P. 7. l. 21. Instead of "a copy having been taken by Locke," read "a copy sent to Locke."