### THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. THE EPISTLES TO THE COLOSSIANS AND TO PHILEMON

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The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. The Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon by H. C. G. Moule

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GENERAL EDITOR :- J. J. S. PEROWNE, D.D. BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THE EPISTLES TO THE

## COLOSSIANS

#### AND TO

# PHILEMON

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

THE REV. M. C. G. MOULE, M.A. PRINCIPAL OF RIDLEY HALL, AND LATE FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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#### PREFACE

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#### BY THE GENERAL EDITOR.

THE General Editor of The Cambridge Bible for Schools thinks it right to say that he does not hold himself responsible either for the interpretation of particular passages which the Editors of the several Books have adopted, or for any opinion on points of doctrine that they may have expressed. In the New Testament more especially questions arise of the deepest theological import, on which the ablest and most conscientious interpreters have differed and always will differ. His aim has been in all such cases to leave each Contributor to the unfettered exercise of his own judgment, only taking care that mere controversy should as far as possible be avoided. He has contented himself chiefly with a careful revision of the notes, with pointing out omissions, with

PREFACE.

suggesting occasionally a reconsideration of some question, or a fuller treatment of difficult passages, and the like.

Beyond this he has not attempted to interfere, feeling it better that each Commentary should have its own individual character, and being convinced that freshness and variety of treatment are more than a compensation for any lack of uniformity in the Series.

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#### PREFATORY NOTE.

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THE Editor takes occasion to express his thanks for valuable assistance given him in the course of his work; particularly to Dr E. C. Clark, Regius Professor of Laws in the University of Cambridge, to the Rev. Dr Sinker, Librarian of Trinity College, and to the Rev. G. A. Schneider, M.A., Vice-Principal of Ridley Hall.

Prof. W. M. Ramsay's *Church in the Roman Empire* was published only when the revised proofs were in the press; the Editor regrets that he was unable to use these Lectures sooner. Prof. Ramsay speaks with the authority of a special student and a geographical explorer on the early history of Christianity in Asia Minor.

As a devotional Commentary, the work of the Jansenist Father, Pasquier Quesnel (*Le N. T. en François, avec des Reflexions etc.*, Paris, 1705), is often quoted in this book. Its short notes are everywhere rich in spiritual suggestion.

One critical Exposition has been always before the Editor; Bishop Lightfoot's *Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon.* Here and there the Editor has ventured to express a doubt, or difference of opinion, regarding some