

**THE STUDENT'S OLD
TESTAMENT, PROVERBS
AND DIDACTIC POEMS**

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The student's Old Testament, proverbs and didactic poems by Charles Foster Kent

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CHARLES FOSTER KENT

**THE STUDENT'S OLD
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AND DIDACTIC POEMS**

The Student's Old Testament

PROVERBS AND DIDACTIC POEMS

THE STUDENT'S OLD TESTAMENT

LOGICALLY AND CHRONOLOGICALLY
ARRANGED AND TRANSLATED

BY

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ARRANGEMENT OF VOLUMES

- I. **Narratives of the Beginnings of Hebrew History.** (*Now Ready.*)
Introduction. The Beginnings of Human History. Traditional Ancestors of the Hebrews. Deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt. Life of the Hebrews in the Wilderness and East of the Jordan. Conquest and Settlement of Canaan.
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- VI. **Proverbs and Didactic Poems.** (*Now Ready.*)
Introduction. Practical and Ethical Observations and Precepts. Religious Proverbs. Generic Essays. Numerical Enigmas. Discussions of the Problem of Evil. Discussions Regarding the Value of Life and Its Wise Enjoyment. Poems Describing Wisdom.

The Student's Old Testament



PROVERBS AND DIDACTIC POEMS

BY

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THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED
TO THE GOODLY FELLOWSHIP OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON RELIGION IN HIGHER EDUCATION
TO WHICH IN HIS LAST YEARS PROFESSOR KENT
DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS ENERGY AND IN
WHICH HIS SPIRIT STILL LIVES

FOREWORD

THE greater part of the present work had been completed by Professor Kent before the illness which ended in his untimely death in May, 1925. The successive volumes of *The Student's Old Testament* have been familiar to scholars and laymen for many years, and have exercised a wide influence both in this country and abroad. Their author was a tireless worker, who spared no pains to accomplish his purpose. Each book in the series is the fruit of long study which aimed to use all the helpful material, ancient and modern, with an open mind. His careful translations, based on the original languages with constant reference to the principal versions, and arranged according to a comprehensive plan of his own, fill a unique place among the modern helps to the study of the Bible.

The subject of this volume, *The Work of Israel's Wise Men*, was especially congenial to Professor Kent, and had interested him for many years. He had already given it a brief and popular treatment in his *Wise Men of Ancient Israel and Their Proverbs*, published in 1895, and ever since then had been collecting material for a more thorough and extensive work. A glance at the critical notes appended to the present translation will serve to show the reader how seriously he took his difficult task. Like its predecessors, the volume testifies to its author's ability to construct a book fitted for practical use by students and teachers.

The publishers have been fortunate in securing for the completion of the unfinished work the collaboration of Doctor Millar Burrows, a former pupil of Professor Kent; one who, in addition to being a competent and careful scholar, is also able as few others could be to carry the task through to its end in the method and the spirit of its original author. There will be found no unevenness in the execution. The many readers of Professor Kent's printed works, as well as those—also many in number—who were privileged to be his pupils and friends, may take satisfaction in the knowledge that the book which he had long planned and nearly finished can now be presented to the public substantially in the shape which he himself would have given it.

CHARLES C. TORREY.

February 15, 1927.