JUDAS MACCABAEUS AND THE JEWISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

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Judas Maccabaeus and the Jewish war of independence by Claude Reignier Conder

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CLAUDE REIGNIER CONDER

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JUDAS MACCABÆUS



- SKETCH MAP OF PALESTINE. SHOWING PLACES CONNECTED WITH THE EISTORY OF JUDAS MACCABLEDS.

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JEWISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

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CLAUDE REIGNIER CONDER, R.E.

"Can these bones live?"

NEW YORK G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS 182 FIFTH AVENUE

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1879

PREFACE.

The story of the life of Judas Maccabæus forms one of the most important episodes in Jewish history, if only because it explains how the nation first developed that peculiar phase of character which marked it at the time when Christianity was given to the world.

The sources of historic information upon which I have mainly relied in the following pages are the First Book of Maccabees and the Antiquities of Josephus. The Second Book of Maccabees being generally considered to be far inferior in value to the first, and its statements being sometimes in direct contradiction to the more ancient accounts, has contributed only some of the picturesque details with which it abounds.

These authorities, however, furnish little beyond the dry bones of history. Some attempt has, therefore, been made in this volume to render the story more vivid by aid of description of the scenes in which it was laid, and of the contemporary social Preface.

and religious life of the Jews. The Talmudic information is mainly derived from the well-known edition of the Mishna by Surenhusius; and the account of the country is due to the advantages I enjoyed during the survey of Palestine, when I was able to visit more than once each of the battlefields of Judas.

Finally, I have attempted to give a slight sketch of those results of the great struggle which appear most important in relation to general history, and especially as connected with the origin and growth of Christianity.

C. R. C.

GUILDFORD, 17/A May, 1879.

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