

**THE SYRO-LATIN
TEXT OF
THE GOSPELS**

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The Syro-Latin Text of the Gospels by Frederic Henry Chase

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FREDERIC HENRY CHASE

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BY

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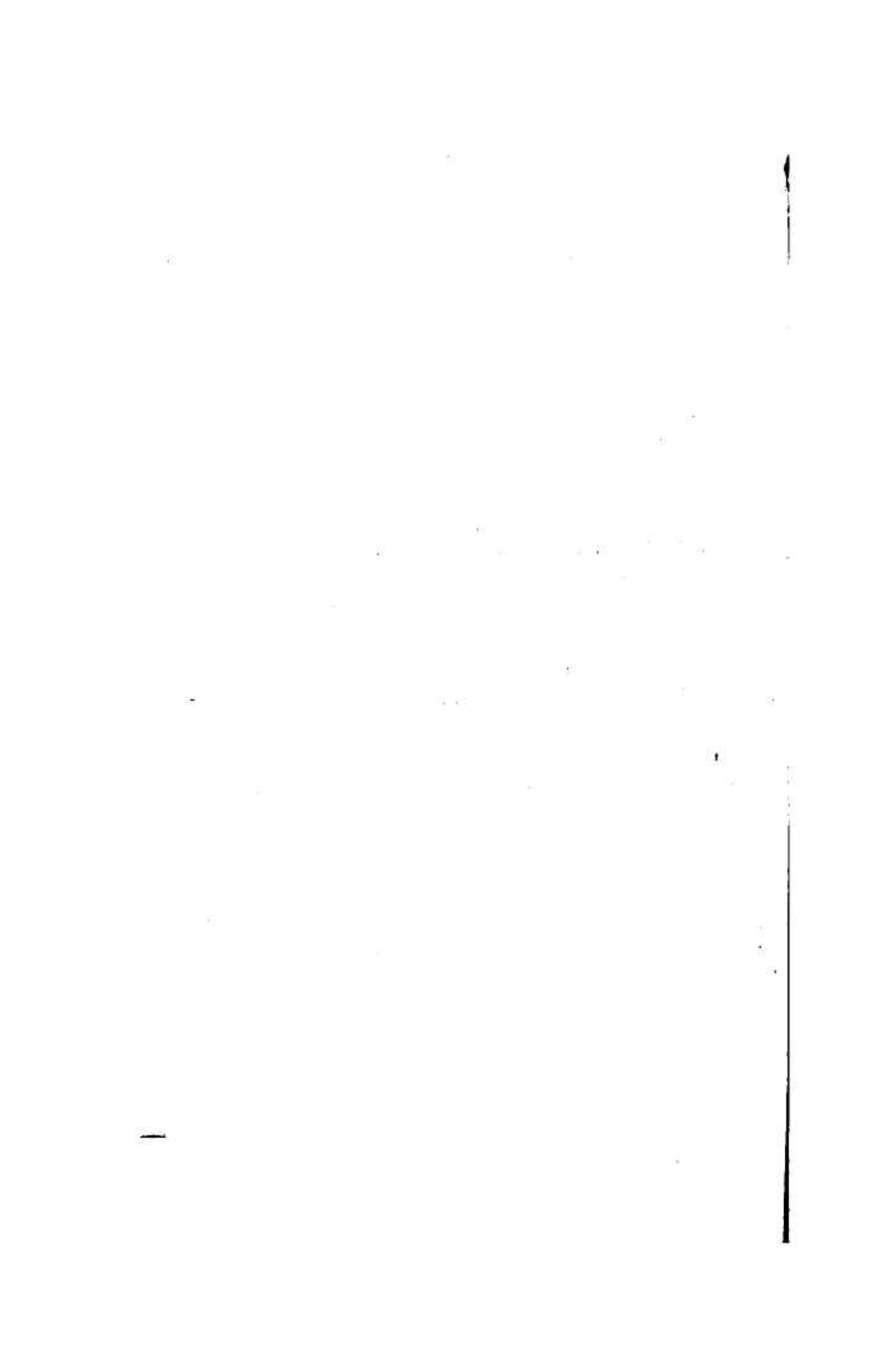
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TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND FREDERIC WALLIS D.D.
BISHOP OF WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND
FELLOW OF GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE
THIS ESSAY IS DEDICATED
WITH GRATEFUL AND TRUE AFFECTION
BY ONE
OF HIS MANY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-WORKERS
IN CAMBRIDGE



PREFACE.

THE present volume is the sequel of an Essay which I published two years ago on *the Old Syriac Element in the text of Codex Bezae*. The latter, primarily an offshoot of a larger work on the Acts on which I am engaged, dealt with the Bezan text of that Book. Several critics, whose opinion I respect, urged against my conclusions the not unnatural objection, which I had fully anticipated in the Preface, that I could produce no direct evidence for an old Syriac text of the Acts. Convinced that assimilation to Old Syriac texts was a predominant factor in the genesis of the Bezan and of cognate texts, I felt that it was almost a matter of honour to extend the investigation to the Gospels, where ample evidence for Old Syriac readings is supplied by the Sinaitic and Curetonian MSS., by the Arabic Tatian, by Ephrem's Commentary on the Diatessaron, and by Aphraat's quotations.

The rough draft of this Essay was drawn up before the publication of the Sinaitic Palimpsest in October 1894. Since that time the whole has been re-written. One note however—that on Luke ii. 5 (see p. 28 f.)—I have ventured to leave exactly as it stood before I saw the Sinaitic text, appending a statement of the evidence derived from that MS., because, as a concrete example, it seems to me to indicate how far results obtained by a critical process are likely to be right. I may be allowed to add that again and again I have found my conclusions confirmed by the Sinaitic text.

An apology is perhaps required for the title of this volume. The term, the 'Western' text, is generally allowed

Bcl. M. sp. 12-7-39

to be misleading. 'The time is, we hope, not far distant,' if I may quote and adopt as my own some words of the Rev. H. Lucas, S.J. (*Dublin Review*, July 1894, p. 52), 'when the term "Western" will, for the future, give place to the term "Syro-Latin," the only one which truly represents, in our opinion, the facts of the case.'

In my references to Tatian's Diatessaron I have generally used the convenient volume of Mr J. Hamlyn Hill, which bears the somewhat quaint title '*The Earliest Life of Christ ever compiled from the Four Gospels.*' In the parts of this book which have been of service to me Mr Hill has secured the cooperation of other scholars. Mr G. Buchanan Gray, B.A., of Oxford, collated with the Arabic text Mr Hill's English rendering of Ciasca's Latin, while Professor Armitage Robinson is responsible for the English translation of the evangelical quotations in the Armenian version of Ephrem's Commentary. In regard to the Latin texts of the Gospels, I have made continual use of the Oxford edition of the Vulgate, for which scholars owe a great debt to the Bishop of Salisbury and Mr H. J. White. The volume however containing St John's Gospel did not appear until the pages of Chapter I., which deal with that Gospel, had passed out of my hands. The third volume of Dr Resch's *Aussercanonische Paralleltex-te—Paralleltex-te zu Lucas*—reached me too late for me to make any use of its rich stores of Patristic citations.

It only remains for me to express my sincere gratitude to several friends in Cambridge, and especially to a younger friend, Mr F. Lillingston B.A., late Scholar of Pembroke College, for their kindness in helping me in the correction of proof-sheets. I wish also to thank the readers and workmen of the University Press for the pains which they have bestowed on the printing of the present volume and of its predecessor.

CAMBRIDGE.

July, 1895.

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