

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ISAAC
WILLIAMS: AS THROWING
FURTHER LIGHT ON THE HISTORY
OF THE OXFORD MOVEMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649205844

The autobiography of Isaac Williams: as throwing further light on the history of the Oxford Movement by Isaac Williams & Sir George Prevost

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

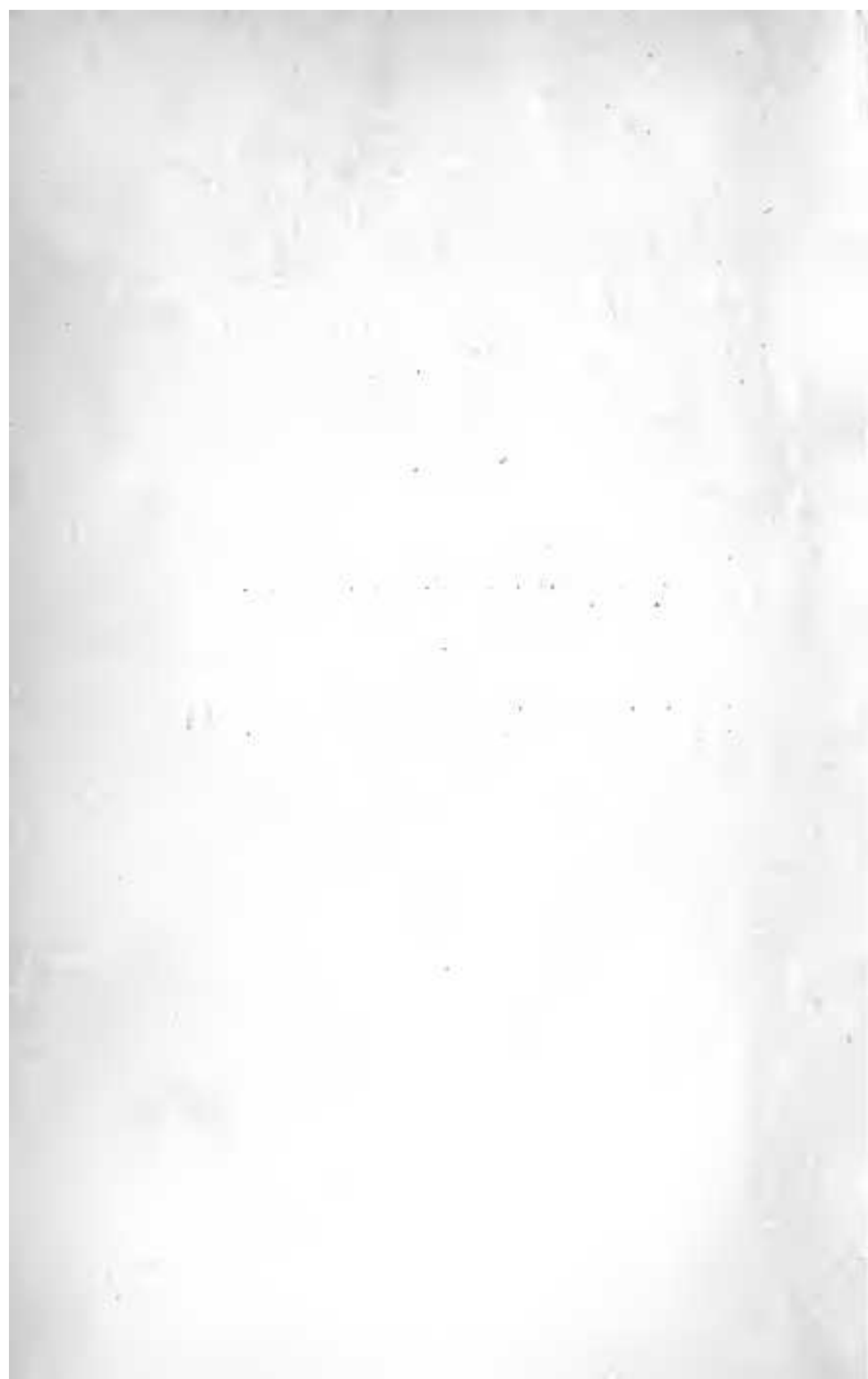
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ISAAC WILLIAMS & SIR GEORGE PREVOST

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
ISAAC WILLIAMS, B.D.



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OF
ISAAC WILLIAMS, B.D.

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, OXFORD

AUTHOR OF SEVERAL OF THE "TRACTS FOR THE TIMES"
"A COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE," ETC.

EDITED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW

THE VEN. SIR GEORGE PREVOST

LATE ARCHDEACON OF GLOUCESTER

*AS THROWING FURTHER LIGHT ON THE HISTORY
OF THE OXFORD MOVEMENT*

LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, & CO.
AND NEW YORK: 15 EAST 16th STREET

1892

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JUN 21 1962

EDITOR'S PREFACE

THE Editor has preserved the Author's original preface as showing the real purpose and essential character of the autobiography as written by the Author for his children. Very little has been suppressed, and in most cases only what was of a private nature.

Some of the Editor's own recollections of the great actors in the movement are inserted here and there in notes, and especially of John Keble. But he clings to the hope that some time or other the life and principal letters of the great saint and religious poet of the present century may be given to the Church. For he must ever earnestly long and pray that John Keble may be made known to the present and future generations, as he was known by them who, like the Author and the Editor, had the privilege of being with him, when cheerfully joining in the joys of young people, and also in graver hours

when his far-seeing eye saw the dark clouds rising, and yet more when at last cruel disappointments of the hopes, that he had at one time ventured to cherish, *seemed* to have come upon him and his friends.

Still, the spirit of resignation never forsook him—

“ Though dearest hopes were faithless found,
And dearest hearts were bursting round.”

One cannot but think of what Hooker says of St. Athanasius, bk. v., ch. xlii. § 5; though, thank God, it was not “only in” John Keble that, throughout the course of that long and sad history, “nothing is observed other than such as very well became a wise man to do, and a righteous man to suffer.”

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

If any of you should live to manhood, you will be glad to know something of the history of my life, and the more so, as parts of it have been spent among persons and circumstances in themselves of some interest and moment, and such as must have some effect on the future character and history of the Church in this country.

I am therefore about to set down for you in writing a few memorials of the past, which I may not live to communicate to you in any other way, when any of you shall be of years to understand them.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

STINCHCOMBE,

December 10, 1851.