

A PRIMER OF THE BIBLE

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A primer of the Bible by W. H. Bennett

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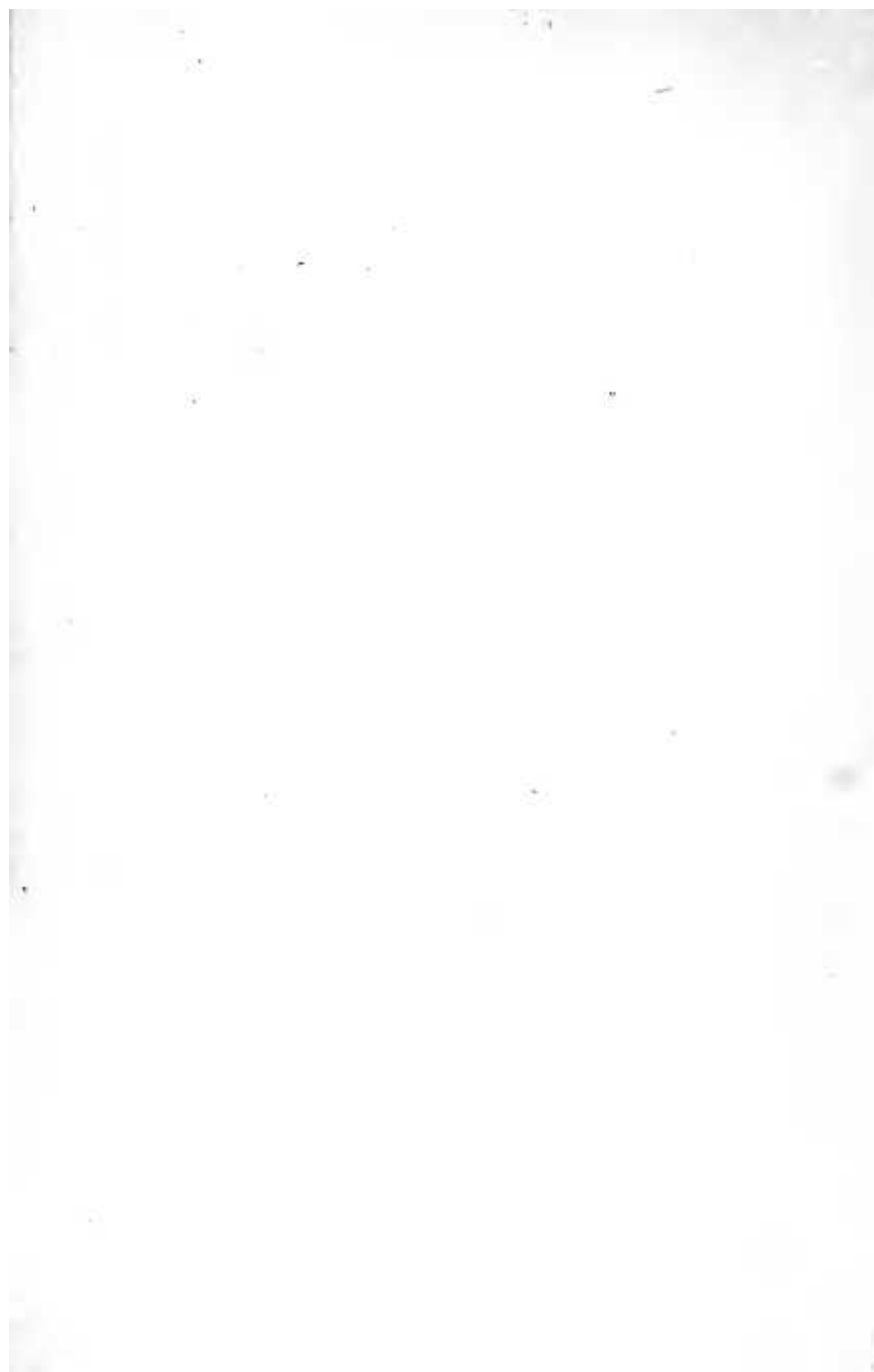
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W. H. BENNETT

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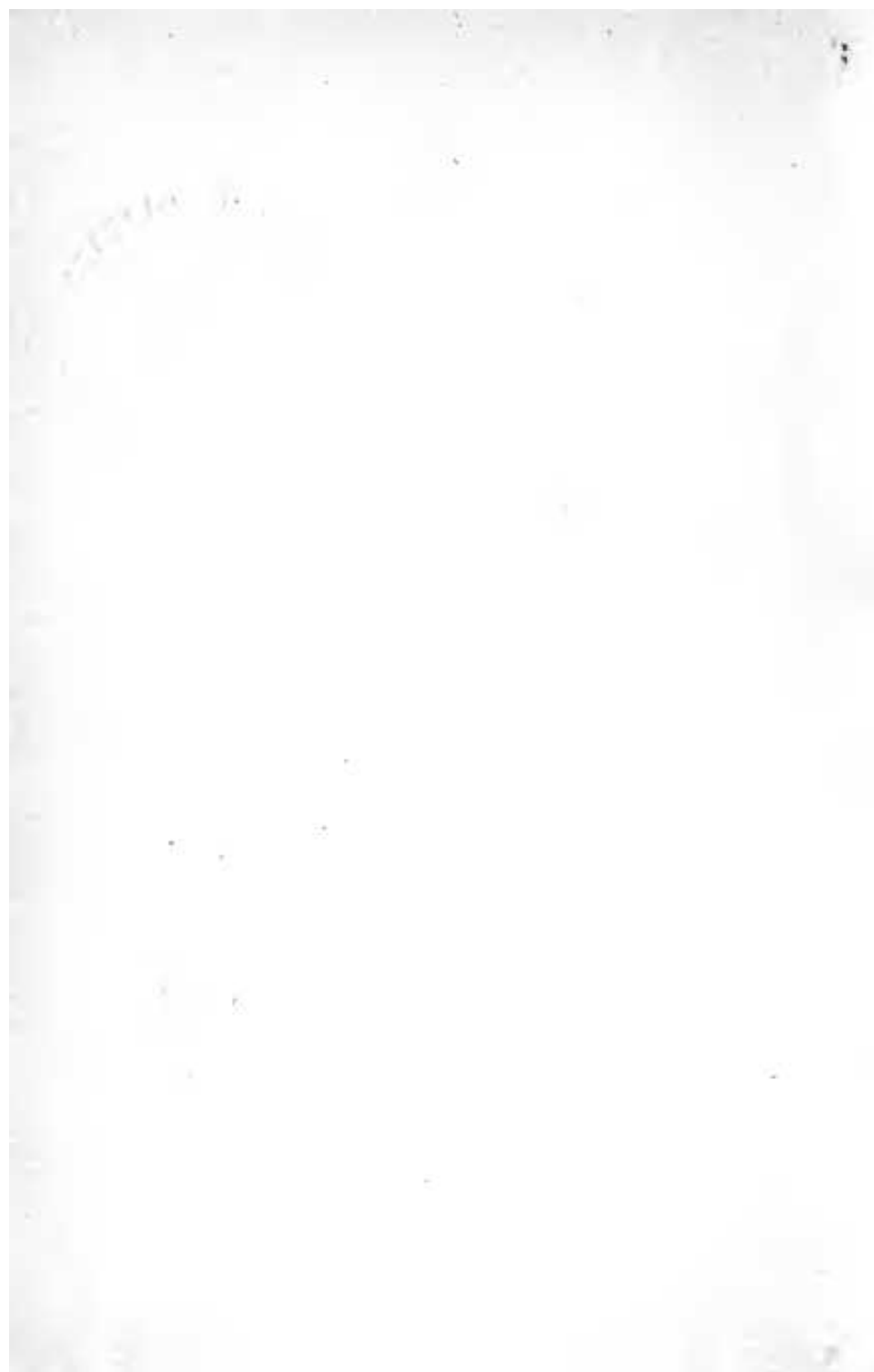
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PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE, HACKNEY COLL., LONDON;
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P R E F A C E

THE object of this Primer is to sketch, in the light of recent criticism, the history of the Bible ; the composition of the books—as far as possible in chronological order ; their relations to one another, and to the history of Israel, of Judaism, and of the Church ; and the process by which they were chosen, collected, and set apart as Sacred Scriptures. In order to furnish a clear and intelligible outline of the subject, its treatment has been limited in two important directions. First, alternative theories are only referred to when they are based on the same general principles of criticism as those assumed in the Primer. An attempt to compare, in this little work, the opposing views of radically different schools would have only led to obscurity and confusion. Secondly, facts which must be familiar to anyone who is likely to read this work, are only referred to when some mention of them is necessary to make the treatment of a subject clear, continuous, and complete.

My obligations to the various standard works on the subject are far too manifold to be indicated in detail ; and the works themselves are, for the most part, too well known to need enumerating. References are occasionally given in notes either to enable the reader to verify a statement, or to give an authority for a view which is not necessarily endorsed. Moreover, the book deals with a wide range, and includes subjects, especially in the New Testament, of which I have not been able to make any adequate inde-

pendent investigation. In such cases, the views advanced are those which seem to me to be dominant in current criticism.

A bibliography of this subject would occupy a larger volume than the present. I may mention as commentaries for English readers: *The Expositor's Bible*; *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*; *Bishop Ellicott's O.T. Commentary for English Readers*, and *N.T. Commentary for English Readers*; and the volumes on Books of the Bible in *Handbooks for Bible Classes, etc.*, edited by *Prof. Marcus Dods* and *Dr Whyte*. Very full bibliographies of works on the books of the O.T. are given in *Dr C. H. H. Wright's Introduction to the O.T.*, and *Dr Driver's Introduction to the Literature of the O.T.* *Dr Cave's Introduction to Theology and its Literature* contains a very complete bibliography of the Bible and all connected studies.

I am indebted to the Rev. T. H. Darlow, M.A., for a careful reading of the proof-sheets and many valuable suggestions.

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