

**MODERN CRITICISM AND THE
PREACHING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:
EIGHT LECTURES ON THE LYMAN
BEECHER FOUNDATION, YALE
UNIVERSITY. THIRD EDITION**

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GEORGE ADAM SMITH

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By GEORGE ADAM SMITH

D.D., LL.D.

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*Eight Lectures on the Lyman Beecher
Foundation, Yale University*

BY

GEORGE ADAM SMITH, D.D., LL.D.

PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASGOW COLLEGE

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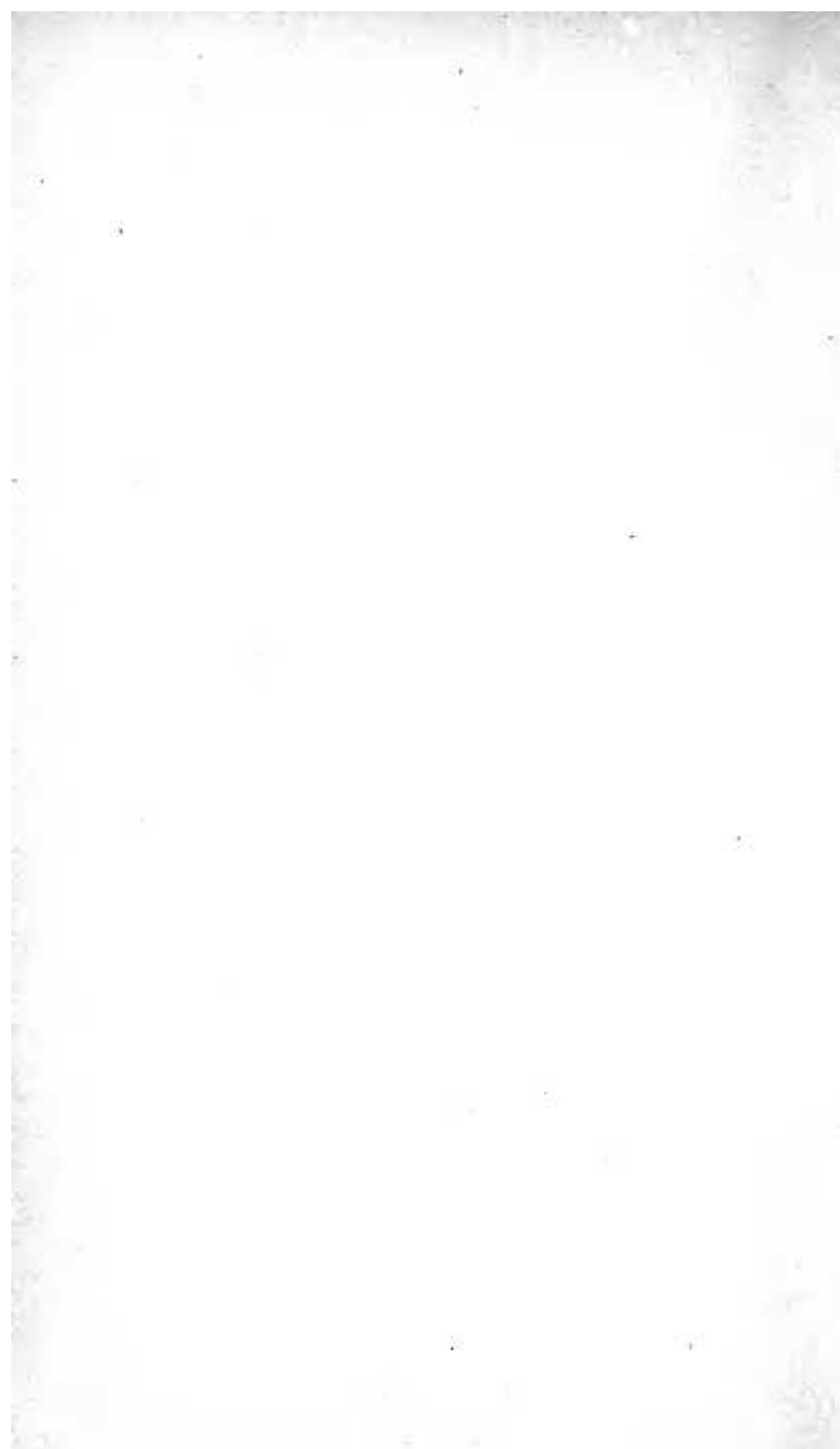
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TO
THE REV. TIMOTHY DWIGHT, D.D.
PRESIDENT OF YALE UNIVERSITY, 1886-1899
THE REV. GEORGE P. FISHER, D.D.
DEAN OF THE DIVINITY SCHOOL, 1895-1901
AND
THE REV. CHARLES RAY PALMER, D.D.
ONE OF THE FELLOWS OF THE UNIVERSITY
THIS VOLUME OF LECTURES
DELIVERED WHILE THEY WERE IN OFFICE
IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

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P R E F A C E

THE Eight Lectures in this volume—or at least as much of each as it was possible to read within the time allotted—were delivered before Yale University in 1899. I have thought it best to leave them as Lectures: that is, in the style of spoken discourse. With one exception they are printed as they were prepared for delivery. but I have worked into four of them—II., III., IV. and VI.—some materials from books which have appeared since they were spoken: Canon Driver's Essay on Hebrew Authority in *Authority and Archaeology, Sacred and Profane*, edited by Mr. Hogarth; Professor Budde's Lectures on the Religion of Israel before the Exile; and Professor Charles' Jowett Lectures, entitled *A Critical History of the Doctrine of a Future Life*. Lecture VII. on the Preaching of the Prophets to

their own Times has been wholly rewritten in order to introduce a detailed account (of which only a brief summary could be spoken) of the Influence of the Prophets upon the Social Ethics of Christendom. In the Introduction and in Lectures I., III., IV. and VII. there are some paragraphs from an address on *The Preaching of the Old Testament to the Age*, delivered in 1892, and now out of print.

The objects of the Lectures are, in the main, three: a statement of the Christian right of criticism; an account of the modern critical movement so far as the Old Testament is concerned; and an appreciation of its effects upon the Old Testament as history and as the record of a Divine Revelation. Obviously eight Lectures cannot provide an exhaustive treatment of these themes; but the Lectures contain, I trust, enough to serve their purely practical aim, and to exhibit to students and preachers the religious effects of the critical interpretation of the larger half of the Scriptures