

**A COMMENT ON
RUTH; AND, NOTES
UPON JONAH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649122967

A comment on Ruth; and, Notes upon Jonah by Thomas Fuller & William Nichols

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS FULLER & WILLIAM NICHOLS

**A COMMENT ON
RUTH; AND, NOTES
UPON JONAH**

A COMMENT ON RUTH:

AND

NOTES UPON JONAH.

BY

THOMAS FULLER, D.D.,

AUTHOR OF THE CHURCH HISTORY OF BRITAIN, ETC., ETC.



EDITED BY

WILLIAM NICHOLS.

LONDON: WILLIAM TEGG.

1808.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THIS volume contains Dr. Thomas Fuller's *Comment on Ruth*, and *Notes upon Jonah*. The former, though not published by the author till 1654, was in reality one of his earliest compositions; having been delivered by him in the shape of Lectures, at St. Benet's, Cambridge, as far back as 1630-1, when he was but a stripling, of two or three and twenty. In issuing it in a printed form, Fuller does not seem to have altered its style, or rooted out the frequent allusions to the current topics of twenty years previously. Between the delivery of the Lectures, and their publication as a Comment, the government of England had undergone a radical change; and it is one amongst many proofs of Cromwell's wise moderation, that Fuller could thus openly retain the fervent expressions of his youthful loyalty; as where he recounts amongst special mercies the preservation of Charles on his trip to Spain, &c. There was a certain amount of courage in printing such a passage as the following, which, however palatable to the heads of church and state when originally delivered, might easily have given offence to a powerful party under the Protectorate:—With regard to “some who leap from the

loom to the pulpit,—I must confess, an ass's head was good food in a famine; coarse meat is dainty when no better can be had. But now," &c. That there was in Fuller's day the same difficulty as in ours in dealing with the poor so as to damage neither justice nor charity, is evident from the following aspiration, in which we, of two centuries later, can heartily join: "Would all poor and impotent were well placed in a hospital; all poor and able well disposed in a workhouse; and the common stocks of towns so laid out as they thereby might be employed!" Just below this quotation occurs proof of the antiquity and respectability of a word which is now regarded as close upon the confines of "slang," and as suited chiefly for records of foot and boat races, &c.:—"After a *sprint* in their calling for some few hours, they relapse again to laziness."

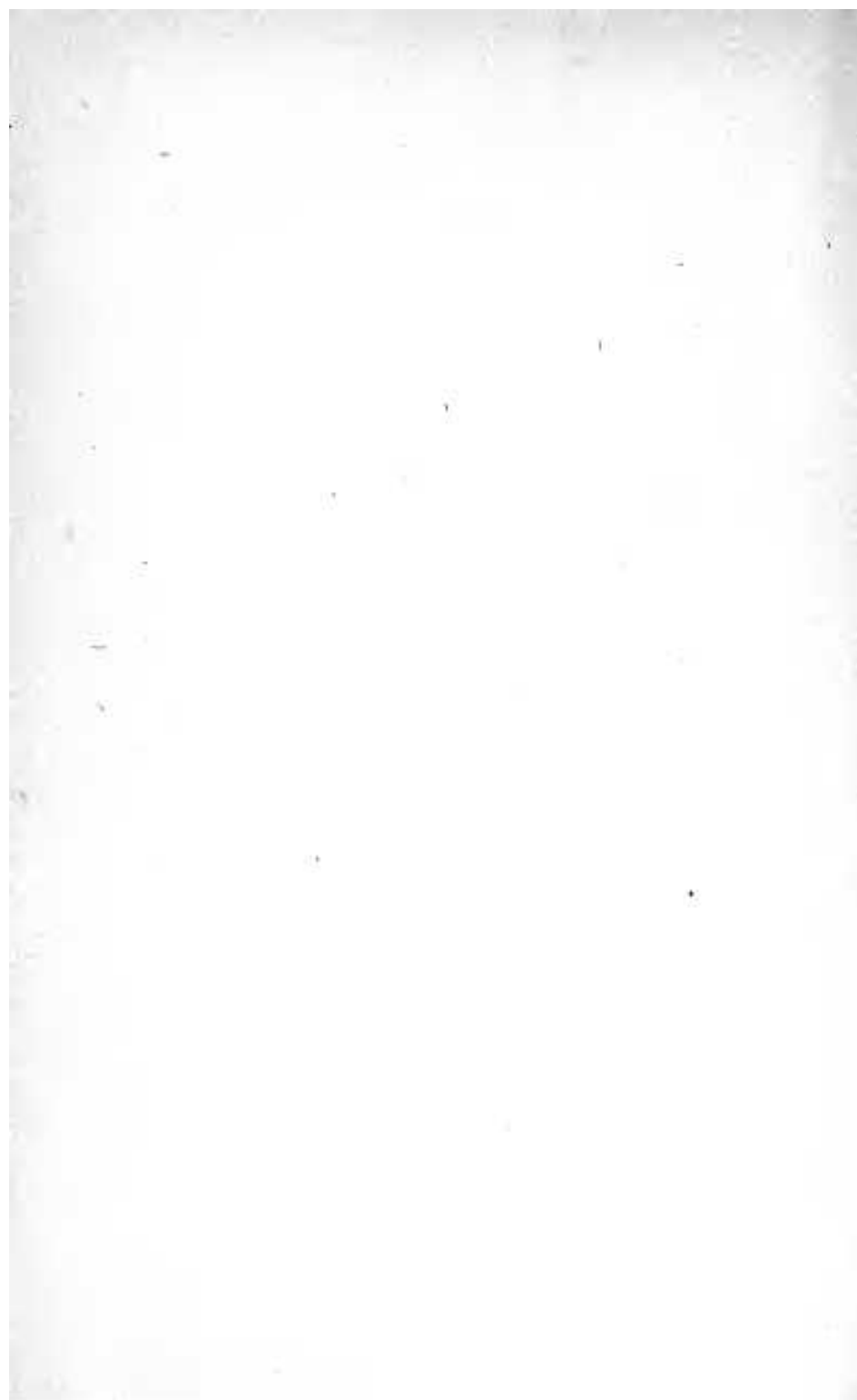
Though the *Comment on Ruth* is written with ease, and is full of ingenious thought, we can well suppose that the young clergyman, just entering on his preferment, would, in delivering Lectures in a University town, carefully avoid any approach to punning, and repress that fondness for alliteration which soon afterwards became a special characteristic of his style. But the *Notes upon Jonah*, though published only three years after the *Ruth*, carry on their very face marks of the five and twenty years which had intervened between the composition of the two works. They extend no farther than to verse 7 of the first chapter of *Jonah*, and have the appearance, here and there,

of being jottings for pulpit use, which (like the *Comment*) Fuller published simply in defence against the pirates who preyed on the renown of the popular divine. But, fragments as these *Notes* are, we can trace everywhere in them the original engraving, the inimitably inwoven water-marks, of the genuine paper of the Fullertian bank of ready wit and sterling piety. How thoroughly autographic is the following!—“Away then with the Anabaptist, who would set all men *at odds* by making them *even*!” And the very next sentence is like unto it:—“For a commonwealth to *want a chief*, it is the *chief of all wants*.”

But it is not so much for its wit and humour, or its apt illustrations from every day life, that we commend this volume to the reader: it is chiefly valuable for its even tenor of genuine devotion and of common-sense exposition of Scripture. It will, we feel sure, be hailed by every lover of Fuller, as a fit addition to the series of reprints which are now bringing his scarce and valuable works within the reach of all, and so refurbishing the lustre of his great name. As in former volumes of this series, I have modernized the spelling, and added a few short notes where explanation seemed needful.

WILLIAM NICHOLS.

6, *Stratheden Villas, Hackney,*
1868.



CONTENTS.

A COMMENT ON RUTH.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.....	5
CHAPTER II.....	105

NOTES UPON JONAH.....	179
-----------------------	-----

