

**JESUS AS A TEACHER,
AND THE MAKING OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT. [1895]**

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Jesus as a Teacher, and The Making of the New Testament. [1895] by B. A. Hinsdale

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B. A. HINSDALE

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THE MAKING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

BY

B. A. HINSDALE.

St. Louis:
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1895.

PREFACE.

PURSuing, as I have done for many years, the practice of the Art of Teaching, I have naturally been led to study this art on its reflective side, and also the related science of teaching, together with the history of education. This has been particularly true since, several years ago, it became my professional duty to teach these subjects. My studies in the historical field have embraced, not merely educational doctrine, or pedagogical subject-matter, but also educational method and spirit as illustrated by some of the great teachers of the world. Long ago I had given incidental attention to these last-mentioned elements in Jesus of Nazareth, while studying His lessons; but now I came to study Him distinctly from the professional point of view. I found myself at a loss which to admire most, what He taught or how He taught it. In time I began to write on the subject, and soon what I had written took the form of a series of articles bearing the title, JESUS AS A TEACHER, which appeared in "The Christian-Evangelist." My original purpose was to put the formal elements in the foreground, and to use doctrine only for the sake of illustration; and if, as time wore on, the relation of the two factors began somewhat to change, the reader will have no difficulty in discovering the reason why. However, when the series was finished the formal, art, or professional side had received the emphasis. Methods of teaching depend intimately

upon the matter taught; more than once I have had occasion to remark that the teacher of science or philosophy, mathematics or history, could not possibly handle his subjects as Jesus handled His spiritual lessons; while I may now observe that it is impossible to keep the lessons of Jesus out of sight while dealing with Him as a professional teacher. The series of chapters that give this book its leading title are largely composed of these earlier articles. At the same time, they have all been thoroughly reorganized and revised; considerable additions have been made to nearly all of them, while many new topics have been introduced. The chapter entitled, "How Jesus used the Scriptures," as well as considerable portions of the one called "The Education of Jesus," appeared in nearly the same form as here in "The New Christian Quarterly."

To the leading series of chapters, a second one has been added on a somewhat related theme: **THE MAKING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.** These chapters are a reproduction, with the necessary revision and enlargement, of a series of articles bearing the same title that appeared in "The Disciple of Christ" in 1884. That publication is not now living, but the thanks of the author are tendered to its publishers for permission to use these articles for the present purpose. The object and point of view of this second series of chapters are adequately stated in the introduction.

It may not be amiss to state that neither of the works making up this volume (if works they may be called) is, or pretends to be, a treatise on its subject. The reader will form the truest conception of the first one when he regards it as composed of a series of studies, more or less imperfect and disconnected, dealing with many of the most important phases that Jesus presents to us as a teacher. Other phases could have been similarly treated, and these could have been treated much more thoroughly. While more systematic in plan and treatment, the

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second work is but an outline of a great subject. In writing these last chapters I had two classes of persons in mind—those who are content with an outline, and those who seek a scheme that they may follow, and more or less fill out by subsequent reading and study. But imperfect as the two series are, they are now published in the belief that the things done, as done, were distinctly worth doing.

I shall take formal leave of the volume with earnestly recommending all readers who are occupied with, or interested in, the function of teaching, no matter what the subject-matter, to study Jesus as a Teacher, and especially teachers of morals and religion. He is the great Master of ethical method.

B. A. HINSDALE.

The University of Michigan, March 31, 1895.

Jesus as a Teacher.

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