

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHRISTOLOGY

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Contributions to Christology by Emmanuel Bonavia

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EMMANUEL BONAVIA

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BY

EMMANUEL BONA VIA, M.D.,

LUCKNOW.



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To those who are making researches into the history of the Life of Jesus, I dedicate these pages, with the hope that thereby some light may be thrown on that difficult and obscure subject.—E. B.

LUCKNOW, 1867.

PREFACE.

I PUBLISH these few ideas for two principal reasons.

1. To show that the stated facts of Animal Magnetism, or, as I should prefer to call it, Animal Radiation, are, many of them, grounded on good evidence; that far from this power being a fictitious one, it is the natural result of natural laws.

2. To show how many of the miracles of Christ are explainable on natural grounds, which leads us to the strong presumption that, although probably very much exaggerated, they have a foundation in fact.

Whenever I read the Gospels, I invariably

felt a certain amount of indignation at the incongruities and impossibilities which, according to my notions, they presented; and each time I made a strong determination to write about them, and point them out. This has been done by others lately, in a manner infinitely better than I could have ever hoped to do it myself. But certain facts, and certain modes of explanation have been, as far as I am aware, overlooked. It is to these that I shall devote my attention in the following pages.

It is not my intention to enter upon a discussion regarding the general life of Christ, but only to make an attempt to explain as many as I can of the *miracles* of Christ. In order to prepare the reader to understand the natural grounds upon which I shall attempt this explanation, I found it necessary first to enter upon an exposition of certain facts and laws of the universe. As a student of nature,

I observe everywhere, and in everything, law, order, and the utmost harmony. How, then, can I reconcile the conclusions, reached by the study of nature, with the incongruities of the Gospels? If we take into consideration the necessary want of accuracy in all statements of those days, which I shall attempt to prove, the incongruities are easily accounted for. Otherwise I am afraid we must give up the puzzle, and look upon it as insoluble by human science and logic.

The connection between the miracles of Christ and Animal Radiation will be disclosed in the course of the following pages. Although I have dedicated them to those who are making Biblical researches, I have been induced in many instances to go into particulars, as possibly they may be perused by a different set of readers. In doing so, I have tried to follow G. H. Lewes's advice, viz. to tell exactly what the brain sees, whether it be an external or in-