

STUDIES IN THE GOSPELS.



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FOURTH EDITION, REVISED.

London :

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1878.

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LONDON: PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
AND PARLIAMENT STREET

P R E F A C E.

SOME *Studies in the Gospels* are here offered to the reader. I have never been able to consent with that which so often is asserted—namely, that the Gospels are in the main plain and easy, and that all the chief difficulties of the New Testament are to be found in the Epistles. There are, indeed, by the gracious provision of God, abundance of plain things—so plain that no wayfarer, who seeks his waymarks, need err for lack of such,—alike in these and in those. But when we begin to set the hard things of one portion of Scripture against the hard things of another, I cannot admit that they have right to assume it as lifted above all doubt that those of the Epistles infinitely surpass those of the Gospels. How often the difficulties of the Epistles are merely difficulties of form; not of the thought, but of the setting forth of the thought; of the logical sequence, which only requires a patient disentangling, and all is comparatively clear. But in the Gospels it is not the form of the thought, for that for the most part presents little or nothing perplexing, but the thought itself, the divine fact or statement,