THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS. [1905]

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The New Testament in the Apostolic Fathers. [1905] by Committee of the Oxford Society of Historical Theology

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BY

A COMMITTEE OF THE OXFORD SOCIETY
OF HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS
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PREFACE

This work had its origin in a resolution passed by the Society of Historical Theology, in Oxford, appointing a small Committee to prepare a volume exhibiting those passages of early Christian writers which indicate, or have been thought to indicate, acquaintance with any of the books of the New Testament. Beyond the appointment of the Committee, the Society has no responsibility whatever for the work, and the judgements which are expressed belong to the Committee alone. The present volume deals with the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, in which information is scanty, and traces of dependence on the Scriptures of the New Testament are most open to doubt. The editors are quite aware that their judgements may not command universal assent; but they may claim at least that these judgements have been carefully formed, sometimes after considerable hesitation, by men who are not without practice in this kind of investigation. It is boped that the book will not only provide the student with useful material, but afford him some helpful direction in reaching his own conclusions.

The first duty of the Committee was to agree upon a plan. It was decided to arrange the books of the New Testament in four classes, distinguished by the letters A, B, C, and D, according to the degree of probability of their use by the several authors. Class A includes those books about which there can be no reasonable doubt, either because they are expressly mentioned, or because there are other certain indications of their use. Class B comprises those books the use of which, in the judgement of the editors, reaches a high degree of probability. With class C we come to a lower degree of probability; and in class D are placed those books which may possibly be referred to, but in regard to which the evidence appeared too uncertain to allow any reliance to be placed upon it. Under each author the books of the New Testament are

arranged in accordance with these four classes, except that the Gospels are reserved for a section by themselves after the other writings. In dealing with the Gospels the following division has been observed:—First are presented references to the Synoptical Gospels severally; secondly, references to Synoptical material, where the individual Gospel cannot be distinguished—cases to which the above classification seems inapplicable; thirdly, references to the Fourth Gospel; and lastly, references to apocryphal Gospels. Under each class (A, B, C, D) the books follow one another in the present canonical order; and the passages cited under each head are arranged in the order of probability, according to the editors' judgement, and marked a, b, c, d—symbols to which an explanation will apply similar to that which has been given in connexion with the capital letters.

The quotations are printed in parallel columns. The first presents the quotation containing the supposed reference. The second exhibits the corresponding passage, or passages, in the New Testament, quoted from the text approved by our English Revisers, with references, when necessary, to various readings. A third column, when required, contains illustrative passages from the LXX (the text of Dr. Swete's edition being used) or from other writings. Underneath the several quotations are comments, calling attention to special points, or indicating briefly the grounds of the editors' judgement. In class D references are given without the text in several instances, because, though they have been cited in evidence, they did not appear to deserve serious recognition. addition to these a great many passages were examined by the Committee, but are not mentioned because the Committee came to the conclusion that there was no serious ground for arguing that they showed the influence of the New Testament.

In the execution of the foregoing plan, books were in the first instance allotted to the several members of the Committee, in order that each might make a preliminary list of passages, with his own judgements and comments. These were carefully revised, passage by passage, at meetings of the Committee. They were then arranged in what was intended to be their permanent form. Finally, they were once more revised by the Committee; and in many cases previous judgements were again brought under consideration. It is obvious that the distinction of classes, especially between b and c, must often have involved delicate and doubtful deliberation; for it is extremely difficult, where several are collaborating, to retain at all times the same standard of judgement. But even if in many cases other scholars may arrive at different conclusions, the Committee hope that their labours will not be wholly without fruit in this important field of Biblical study.

The task of final redaction and the furnishing of special introductions were in each case left to the member of Committee to whom the preliminary work had fallen; so that the full consensus of the Committee must be taken to apply only to the degrees of probability assigned to the apparent traces of given New Testament books in the authors examined.

A list of the Committee is appended, in which is indicated the particular work for which each member is specially responsible—

Barnabas: J. V. Bartlet, M.A., D.D., Senior Tutor of Mansfield College.

Didache: K. Lake, M.A., Professor of New Testament Exegesis in the University of Leyden.

I Clement: A. J. Carlyle, M.A., Lecturer in Theology of University College.

Ignatius: W. R. Inge, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Hertford College.

Polycarp: P. V. M. Benecke, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College.

Hermas: J. Drummond, M.A., LL.D., Principal of Manchester College.

II Clement: (Gospels) J. V. Bartlet; (St. Paul's Epistles)
A. J. Carlyle; (Catholic Epistles) P. V. M. Benecke.

Ti Ti

CONTENTS

or the reservation of the									PAGE		
PREFACE .		•	*	10		*	¥00	•		iii	
BARNABAS	•		84	1	*	*	•	•3	٠	ı	
DIDACHE	1	***	•			8	¥2			24	
I CLEMENT		•	•	•		2	•			37	
IGNATIUS	•	300	2.4			*	*	•0	٠	63	
POLYCARP	•	(00)	3%				**	*		84	
HERMAS .	•	1546		•			₽5	-		105	
II CLEMENT	20	•	7.0	•	٠	٠	•	٠	•	124	
TABLES OF RESULTS								•	٠	137	
INDEX I (Passages from the New Testament) .							•	8.	139		
INDEX II (Pa	ssage	s from	n the	э Арс	stoli	Fat	hers)			142	

= · · · · · · 2