

# **BEYOND THE GRAVE**

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Beyond the Grave by Hermann Cremer

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**HERMANN CREMER**

**BEYOND  
THE GRAVE**



# BEYOND THE GRAVE

BY

DR. HERMANN CREMER

PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY

THE REV. SAMUEL T. LOWRIE, D.D.

PASTOR OF THE EWING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEAR TRENTON, N. J.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

THE REV. A. A. HODGE, D.D.

PROFESSOR OF DIDACTIC AND POLEMIC THEOLOGY  
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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THE title of the little book herewith presented to the public in an English translation is in the original as follows: "*Concerning the State after Death; together with some Intimations Concerning the Death of Children, and Concerning Spiritualism.*" This inconvenient title has been exchanged for a more attractive and equally descriptive one, given by the Author to a previous work, as noticed in his Preface which follows. The latter not having appeared in an English translation, there is not the same need of employing a new title for the present book.

Though this little book was published in Germany (*Gütersloh, C. Bertelsmann*) in



1883, the Translator only became acquainted with it in February of the present year. To read it was to have immediately the desire to prepare a translation of it for English readers, and a request was communicated to the Author for his permission to do so. Meanwhile, assuming that there would be no difficulty, especially that the request had not been anticipated in any quarter, the translation was undertaken and finished in a few weeks, and before receiving the Author's reply.

The letter to Dr. Cremer found him, alas! at the death-bed of his second son, a young man of eighteen years. Thus he was actually needing, and doubtless experiencing also, the virtue of those consolations of the God of all comfort, wherewith, in this little book, he had been richly comforting in God others that had like trouble.

In the reply thus delayed, Dr. Cremer expressed his appreciation of the estimate put on his little book, adding that it had already enjoyed an exceedingly friendly re-

ception in foreign lands, of which he had convincing proof in the appearance of a Swedish translation. Respecting the request for permission to translate it into English, he replied that "some months ago he had received a letter from the Rev. Geo. Z. Gray, D.D., Dean of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., requesting him to give his approval of a translation into English, which he had accordingly given. Thus he was not in position to give approval to another translation. Otherwise it would have given him pleasure to do so."

Having received this reply, the Translator immediately communicated by letter with Dr. Gray, stating the situation, who, in his courteous reply, said, "I feel unwilling to stand in the way, as you have done so much of the work, or to insist on my prior right. Therefore I will withdraw."

It is a pleasure to acknowledge this courtesy, and the gratification the Translator has enjoyed in executing the work

thus resigned makes him appreciate Dr. Gray's withdrawal as an act of great generosity. Gratefully accepting this courtesy, he desires also to express his obligation to the publishers for producing the work in so attractive a form.

The Translator takes pleasure in acknowledging his indebtedness for the favor conferred by the Rev. A. A. Hodge, D.D., Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology in Princeton Theological Seminary, in writing, at his request, an Introduction to the present work. The expediency and propriety of this Introduction will vindicate themselves. It is not improper, however, to remark, that the Translator shares the views of the Author (page 41) that are criticised in the Introduction. The criticism, on the other hand, is most welcome. It will cause the matter in question to be the more carefully scrutinized, and, like the light of the torch, which "the more it's shook it shines," so it will be with the truth in this matter, whatever it is.