

**THE REPRESENTATIVE
WOMEN OF
THE BIBLE**

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The Representative Women of the Bible by George Matheson

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GEORGE MATHESON

**THE REPRESENTATIVE
WOMEN OF
THE BIBLE**

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The Representative Women of the Bible

By **GEORGE MATHESON**, D. D.

LL.D., F.R.S.E. (Formerly Minister of the Parish of St. Bernard's,
Edinburgh), author of "The Representative Men of the Bible,"
"Studies of the Portrait of Christ," "Rests by the River," etc.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

ON the twenty-seventh day of August, 1906, Dr. Matheson was engaged in the composition of this book; the following day he was dead. Not only were the portraits of these Bible Representative Women numerically incomplete, but a large part of the existing MS. included certain hieroglyphic matter unfitted for transmission to the press. In the course of a recent magazine article I endeavoured to describe the peculiar system by which Dr. Matheson committed his ideas to his memorandum till opportunity offered for dictating them. Though based upon the well-known system of Braille, he changed so many letters and used so entirely his own con-

W. C. Hanson, Sept. 8/14/07.

tractions, that gradually he acquired a system suited to his own exclusive use; even I—for ten years his secretary—knew practically nothing about it. At the cost of strenuous and patient application, however, I have made the work so far complete that it represents a goodly portion of the volume originally contemplated, while the fact that these studies are virtually disconnected prevents them from losing their value through numerical incompleteness. I have also converted from the Braille what the author evidently intended for the main outlines, or at least some of the chief features, of a twelfth chapter—the portrait of Mary Magdalene; this unfinished canvas will be found in an appendix. His method throughout was to grasp the apex ere he set to work upon the base; and latterly he was wont to commit his main idea to a few pages of “notes” before he proceeded to the elaboration of his chapter. A perusal of the author's own preface will show the actual amount by which the volume

EDITOR'S PREFACE vii

falls short of his original intention; and I may add that, except for *this* preface, every word is George Matheson's—not one is mine.

WM. SMITH.

Edinburgh, 1907.