

**"HIGHER CRITICISM":
WHAT IS IT, AND WHERE
DOES IT LEAD US?**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649359431

"Higher criticism": what is it, and where does it lead us? by Robert Sinker

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT SINKER

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BY THE

REV. ROBERT SINKER, D.D.

LIBRARIAN OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE

London

JAMES NISBET & CO., LIMITED

21 BERNERS STREET

1899



923658

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & CO.
At the Ballantyne Press

To

THE REV. PETER HAMNETT MASON, M.A.

President and Hebrew Lecturer of St. John's College, Cambridge.

My Dear Mr. Mason,

It is now many years ago since you first pressed on me, as on your other pupils, that wise maxim of the Men of the Great Synagogue, "Be cautious in judgment." This is a principle that cannot be too rigidly insisted on in every branch of theological criticism, though it would seem that on many hands it is held nowadays in scant esteem.

Deep and hearty is my gratitude for your guidance and example in the application of this principle to the Hebrew Bible, and indeed for all the lessons of far past years, in which I, as one of a host of pupils, now scattered over England, and far beyond England, learned to approach the Oracles of Israel under the guidance of one who brought to the interpretation of the Sacred Books alike an unsurpassed scholarship, the keenest appreciation of literary beauty and a profound reverence for the Divine authority of Scripture.

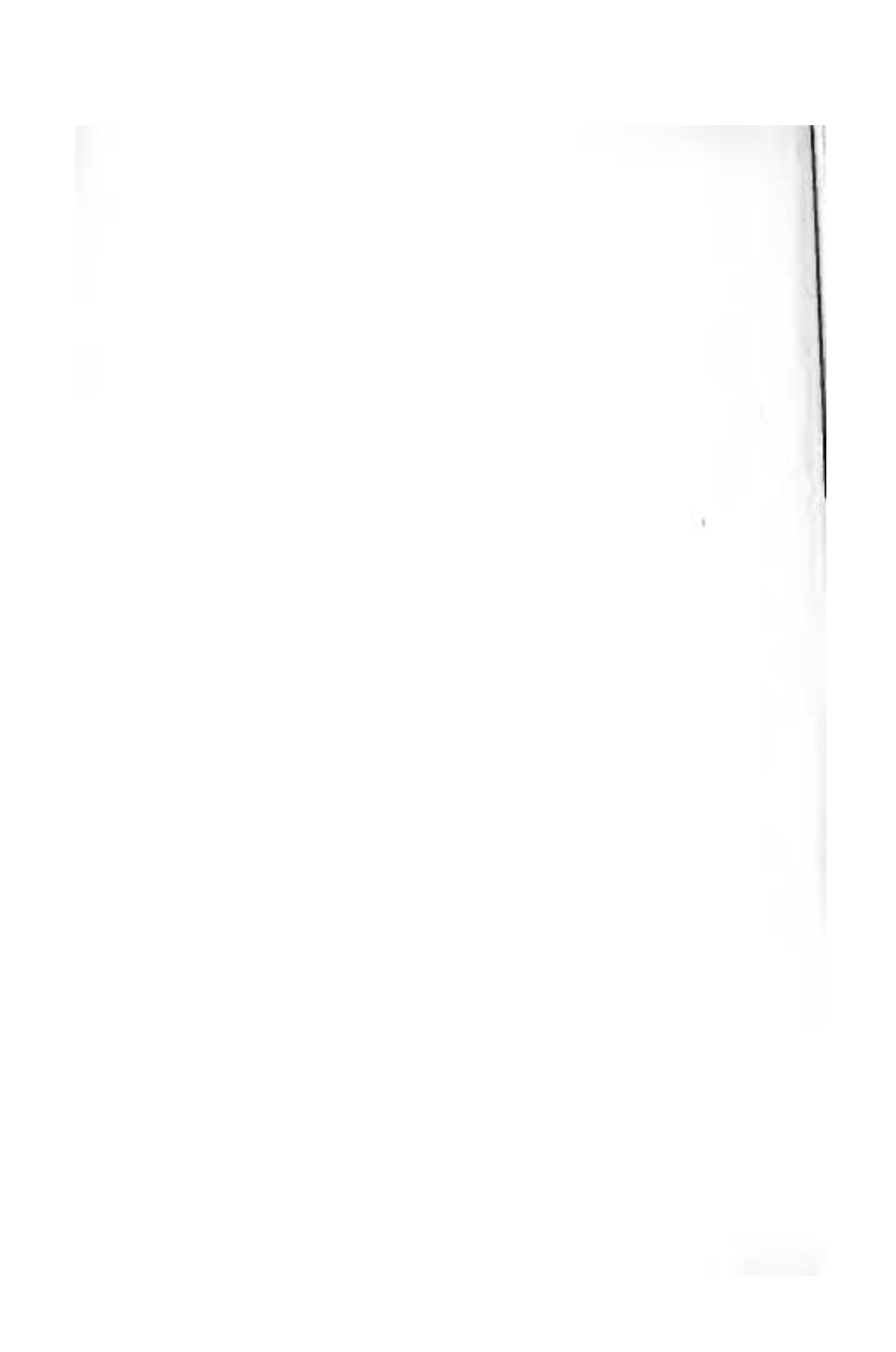
I rejoice to take this opportunity of publicly expressing a feeling cherished so long.

Believe me to remain, my dear Mr. Mason,

Your affectionate friend and pupil,

ROBERT SINKER.

TRINITY COLLEGE,
August 30, 1899.



PREFATORY NOTE

THE following attempt at showing the real nature and tendency of much of so-called "Higher Criticism" appeared originally in the pages of the *Record*, from which it has been reproduced, with but a few alterations, by the kind permission of the proprietors of that journal.

I would venture here again to point out, what I have several times stated in the following pages, that my object in writing has not been, save incidentally, to discuss how far this or that scheme of "Criticism" may be true or false, but to urge my readers to consider these schemes with their eyes open; not simply to drift without consideration into a world of new theories, but anyhow first to face the facts and to count the cost.

Archæology has already showed the falsity of many so-called "critical" rulings; till archæology has said its last word, it may be well to keep our judgments in abeyance on a good many more.

R. S.

