

**A CHAMPION OF THE FAITH: A  
MEMOIR OF THE REV. CHAS.  
HENRY HAMILTON WRIGHT, D.D.,  
PH. D. WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS  
WRITINGS AND JOURNALS**

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A champion of the faith: a memoir of the Rev. Chas. Henry Hamilton Wright, D.D., Ph. D. With extracts from his writings and journals by James Silvester

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**JAMES SILVESTER**

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A CHAMPION OF THE FAITH



REV. C. H. H. WRIGHT, D.D., T.C., D.

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A MEMOIR OF THE  
REV. CHAS. HENRY HAMILTON  
WRIGHT, D.D., Ph. D.

WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS WRITINGS AND  
JOURNALS.

Edited by  
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Vicar of Great Clacton and Little Holland

WITH PREFACE BY  
**HENRY WACE, D.D.,**  
Dean of Canterbury.

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## PREFACE

THIS brief memoir offers an earnest tribute to the life and work of one of the ablest, most energetic, and most learned Divines of our times. It describes how Dr. Wright's career commenced with deep spiritual influences in his youth and early manhood, and was maintained in full vigour through very varied and arduous experiences in the promotion and defence of the Christian and Protestant Faith. He was equally vigorous and successful as a Chaplain at Dresden and Boulogne, in charge of a Parish at Belfast, Dublin, and Liverpool; and all the while he was prosecuting profound studies in the ancient Scriptures, and was equal at any moment to undertaking such scholarly efforts as a learned course of Lectures at Oxford or Trinity College, Dublin. In the later years of his life he was contented, without abandoning his learned studies, to devote the greater part of his time to the work of active opposition to Roman doctrine and practice; and the Protestant Reformation Society had the good fortune to be represented in its work of popular advocacy by a scholar who, like all the best Irish Divines, was complete master of the doctrinal issues involved, and as a Parish Minister was intimately familiar with their practical bearings. It is excusable for his friends to regret that so much of his later years was expended in these polemical details, and that he was not placed, by a due recognition of his services and his powers, in a position which would have enabled him to concentrate his great learning and ability on the exegetical and critical work for which he was eminently fitted. His *Manual of An Introduction to the Old Testament* is perhaps the soundest and most useful summary of our knowledge,

and of the recent state of criticism, on that subject, which the English Church has produced; and it received, at the beginning of this century, a striking tribute from Count Baudissin, a Professor at the University of Berlin, at the opening to his own Introduction. He says that: "Allied to the standpoint of Delitzsch is the modest and attractive, and, in its way, excellent compendium of Charles H. H. Wright, written with the cautious reserve of a conservative, the mild judgment of a man of sound learning, and the practical brevity of an Englishman." That seems to me a very fair estimate of the book; and in the balance of judgment which it exhibits between the old and the new learning, it is still, I think, unequalled. At the same time, his editions of several books of the Old Testament, his Bampton Lectures on Zechariah, and his works on the Book of Daniel, exhibit the power of original criticism.

In short, he was at once a profound and original scholar, a learned Divine, a powerful controversialist, an earnest and devoted minister, and an able preacher, and in every capacity he displayed an untiring energy, and the most conscientious thoroughness. Amidst it all, he was as genial and humorous a companion as only an Irish Scholar can be, and amidst all his controversies he was generous and friendly to his opponents. The deep piety and the earnest spiritual devotion which underlay all his work, and inspired it, is illustrated in the extracts from his letters and diaries in the following pages; and he was always at heart an Evangelist. This memoir will, at least, afford an outline of his character and his labour, and will help, I hope, to keep his memory honoured in the Churches of England and Ireland, and to ensure due attention to the valuable works which remain as the results of his learning and his devotion.

H. WACE.

The Deanery, Canterbury. August, 1917.

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