

**THE HALLOWING OF  
CRITICISM: NINE SERMONS  
ON ELIJAH PREACHED  
IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

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The Hallowing of Criticism: Nine Sermons on Elijah Preached in Rochester Cathedral by T. K. Cheyne

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**T. K. CHEYNE**

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Rockwell

THE HALLOWING OF CRITICISM.

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HALLOWING OF CRITICISM:

*Nine Sermons on Elijah Preached in  
Rochester Cathedral,*

WITH AN ESSAY READ AT THE CHURCH CONGRESS,  
MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 2ND, 1888.

*Revised*  
BY THE  
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TO  
MY WIFE,  
WHO, IN MORE SENSES THAN ONE,  
HAS TRAVELLED WITH ME IN THE PSALMISTS'  
AND ELIJAH'S LAND,  
THIS BOOK, WHICH IS HER OWN,  
IS  
DEDICATED.



## P R E F A C E.

THE history of this little book is as follows. Finding myself transferred for three months from studious Oxford to the cathedral city of a busy, practical diocese, I had to consider how I could make some small distinctive contribution to Church work. The best way appeared to be to attempt a (to me) fresh experiment in preaching. It was evident that Old Testament subjects were by no means adequately represented or accurately explained in ordinary Anglican sermons, and it seemed to me (as it has doubtless done to others) that a reform might well be initiated by cathedral preachers. If any additional justification be needed, I have only to refer to the present Dean of Westminster's expository

lectures on Ecclesiastes and Job. The present course of sermons, it is true, is not purely expository; it also touches from time to time on historical criticism. I hope, however, that the tone is not less popular than that of Dean Bradley's excellent work. The subject is, no doubt, a familiar one; and it may have been too bold to touch it. Stanley's predecessor at Oxford (W. W. Shirley, Professor of Ecclesiastical History, so favourably known by his Wycliffe researches) printed four university sermons on Elijah; these I have not seen. That accomplished and catholic-minded New Testament scholar Professor Milligan, of Aberdeen, has also published an interesting and instructive work—"Elijah: his Life and Times"—in the series called "Men of the Bible" (Nisbet and Co.); several parts of this book I have read (as some footnotes will show) with sympathy, though not without regret that it is not more pronouncedly critical. For myself the subject had a special attraction,

owing to my recent return from a tour in Palestine with my wife and our friends Canons Driver and Were; and I only wish that we could have had a nearer view of Elijah's Mount Carmel. I had no thought of publishing this course; but finding that I had only twenty minutes to deal with a certain great subject at the Manchester Church Congress, it occurred to me that these sermons might help to illustrate my ideas.

The subject referred to may be briefly described as the Hallowing of Criticism. The Scriptures must in future, as many think, be expounded by preachers and teachers with some reference to the results of criticism; and the question becomes an urgent one how this can be done so as not to injure, but, if possible, even to promote, the higher or religious life. The Church Congress paper itself is appended to the sermons. It might have been fitly supplemented by an essay on the relations of Old Testament criticism to the Christian