

**THE BOOK OF THE COVENANT
IN MOAB; A CRITICAL
INQUIRY INTO THE ORIGINAL
FORM OF DEUTERONOMY**

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by John Cullen

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A CRITICAL INQUIRY INTO THE
ORIGINAL FORM OF DEUTERONOMY

BY

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PREFACE

THE following study is definitely limited to one aspect of Deuteronomy. It does not include any attempt to expound the teaching of the book as a whole, or to investigate the question of its date, or to describe it in its relations to the rest of the Hexateuch. As the title indicates, the proposed inquiry is concerned with the formation of Deuteronomy as a literary composition. In dealing with this topic, an effort has been made to adhere as far as possible to a consecutive line of argument, though it must be premised that owing to the somewhat intricate nature of the subject matter, frequent cross references have been unavoidable. Again, anything like a comprehensive statement of the many different views that have been held concerning the structure and development of Deuteronomy could not have been given without altering the character and greatly increasing the dimensions of this volume: those only are referred to, therefore, that happen to come directly under notice in the course of the discussion.

The subject of inquiry may be defined as follows:—
Assuming that the Book of Deuteronomy, while con-

taining a large amount of older material, is, as a separate production, the literary precipitate of a period of religious reform inaugurated in the reign of Josiah, is it possible to determine what part or parts of it constituted the pioneer document of this movement, and from the point of view thus attained to give an intelligible account of the subsequent process of growth by which the book reached its present condition?

The theory here set forth in reply to the above question differs radically from that which has come to be regarded almost as a tradition of criticism. It is to be hoped, however, that this may not prevent it being considered on its merits. The results arrived at are put forward, not in any spirit of dogmatic assurance, but with a sincere desire to promote in some degree the elucidation of one of the most interesting, and at the same time most perplexing problems of the Old Testament.

10th September, 1903.

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