

**EARLY EASTERN CHRISTIANITY:  
ST. MARGARET'S  
LECTURES, 1904, ON THE  
SYRIAC-SPEAKING CHURCH**

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Early Eastern Christianity: St. Margaret's Lectures, 1904, on the Syriac-Speaking Church by F. Crawford Burkitt

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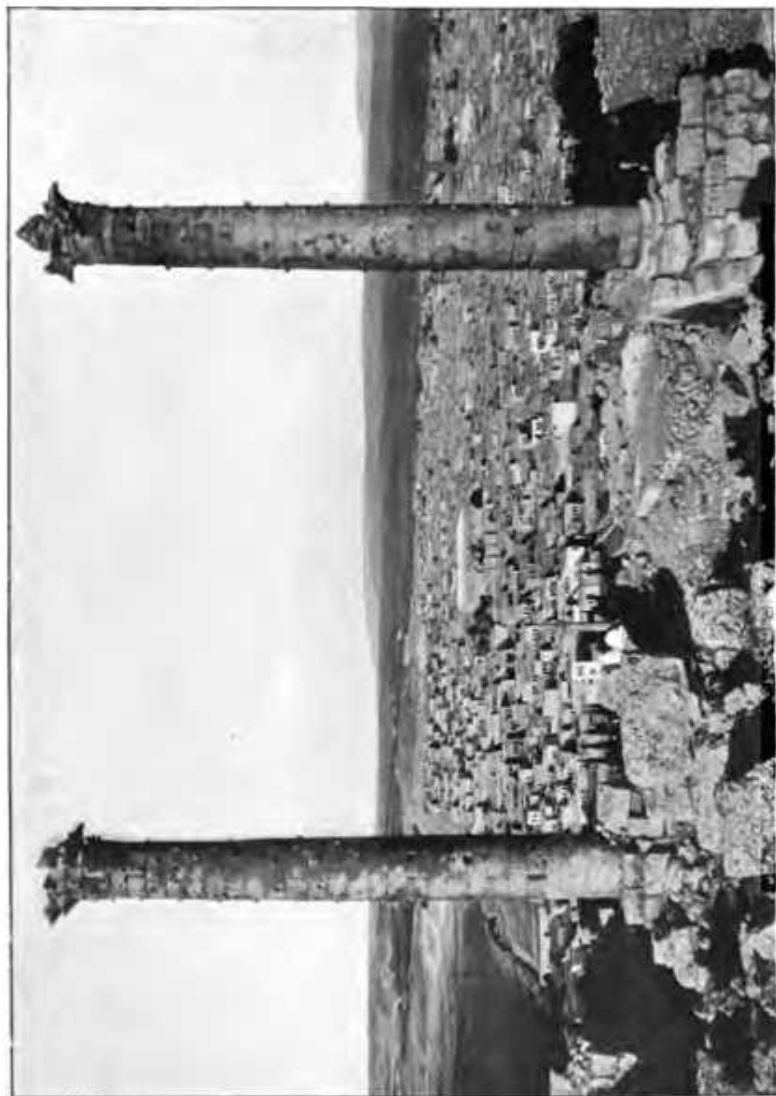
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**F. CRAWFORD BURKITT**

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THE TWO GREAT COLUMNS ON THE CITADEL OF EDESSA.

*The view taken looks very nearly N.E.*

*Frontispiece.*

**EARLY EASTERN CHRISTIANITY**

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**EARLY  
EASTERN CHRISTIANITY**

**ST. MARGARET'S LECTURES**

**1904**

**ON THE SYRIAC-SPEAKING  
CHURCH**

**BY F. CRAWFORD BURKITT**

LECTURER IN PALMEOGRAPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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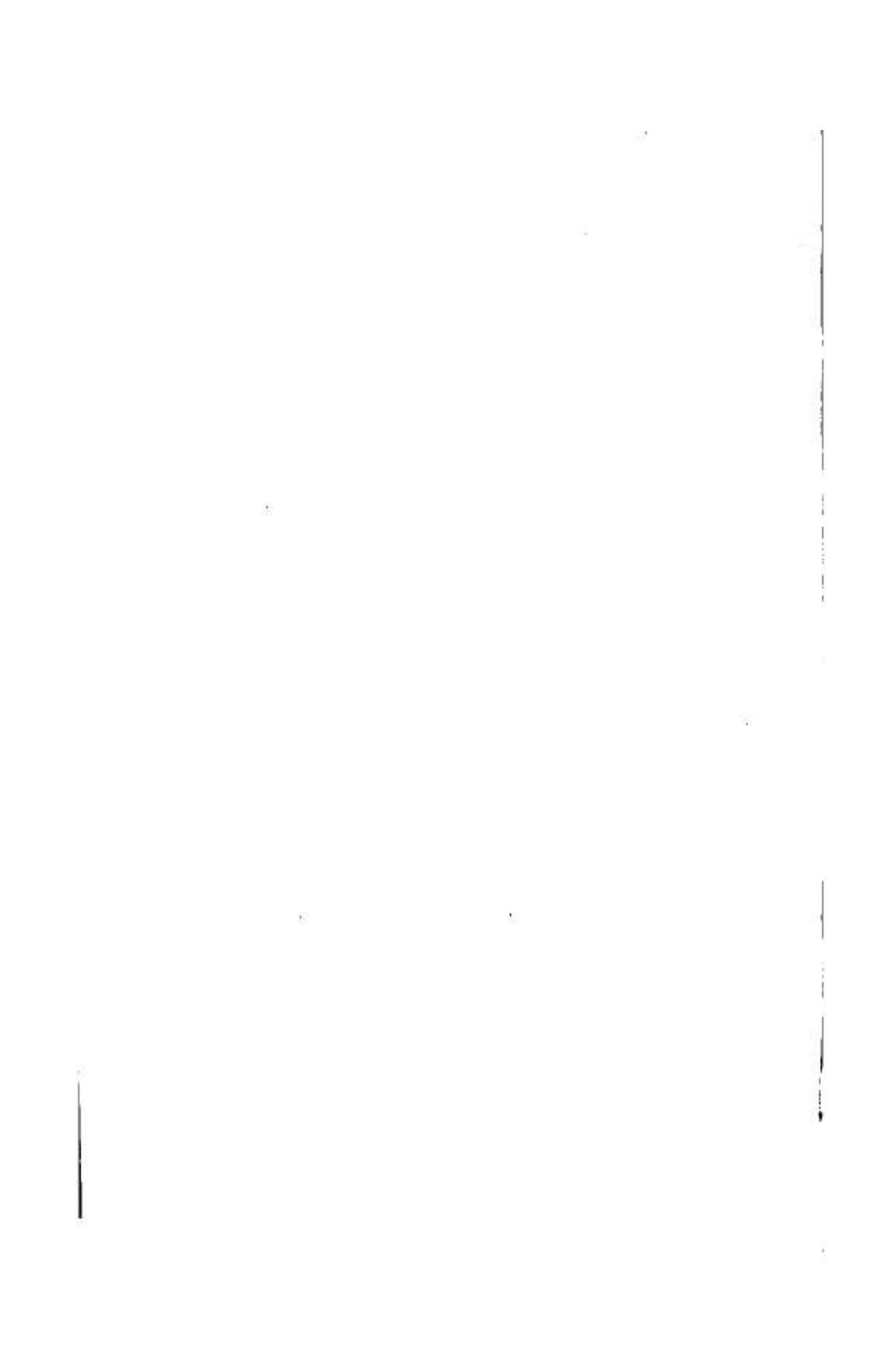
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TO THE MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM CURETON, D.D.,  
CANON OF WESTMINSTER FROM 1849 TO 1864  
AND RECTOR OF S. MARGARET'S  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED



## PREFACE

"EARLY EASTERN CHRISTIANITY," the title which I have given to these six Lectures, may possibly be held to be a misleading name. My Lectures are an attempt to sketch the leading characteristics of the ancient Church of Edessa and the Euphrates Valley from the earliest times to the Council of Chalcedon. The "Eastern Church" in popular usage generally means something geographically wider. We think of Greeks and of Russians, of Alexandria and Constantinople. But compared with the Church about which I have written these names belong to the West, to the great Church within the Roman Empire. It is the unique distinction of the Church of the Euphrates Valley, that alone among the developments of Christianity in the ante-Nicene age it had some of its roots in a realm outside the Roman Empire, and that the language of its learning and its aspirations was a tongue akin to that of Palestine.

It would have been possible to trace out some