

**ISRAEL: A THESIS.
TREATING OF THE PRESENT-
DAY DEVELOPMENT OF
EPHRAIM'S BIRTHRIGHT**

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Israel: A Thesis. Treating of the Present-Day Development of Ephraim's Birthright by Denis Hanan

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DENIS HANAN

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RICHARD CARROLL

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*TREATING OF
THE PRESENT-DAY DEVELOPMENT
OF
EPHRAIM'S BIRTHRIGHT.*

BY THE

REV. DENIS HANAN, M.A., B.D., T.C.D.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the following essay I do not place myself in the position of an apologist, although the views put forward are in one sense modern, being the result of research which has occupied men's minds for a period of not more than fifty years, and that has not produced a literature of any extent until within the last fifteen years.

The study has interested me for about the latter period, and in the appendices I make use of articles which I have contributed to the *Banner of Israel* and other periodicals.

The literature of the subject has grown greatly. The Bible has been closely studied. The political and scientific advance of the century has opened up many questions. Opposition has produced research, and no subject can repay research more than this. History, sacred and profane, ethnology, physiology and philology, geography and archæology, all obtain a new interest. But the study is in its infancy, and although the number of those interested is by no means small, yet the number of those who have anything like definite opinions or knowledge is not large.

Ridicule has been expended in unmeasured

Appendix A. quantity. Misconception has abounded, opponents have unmercifully exposed crude statements. Opinions based upon totally unreliable data have discredited our sober methods, and yet I have never known our arguments to be overthrown. Therefore, Appendix B. I do not take the position of an apologist. I state my case (being permitted to do so by the kind consideration of the Regius Professor of Divinity, Trinity College, Dublin), and I ask for a calm and unprejudiced hearing, such as becomes the consideration of a subject which is declared to be according to the "whole heart and whole soul" of the God of Israel.

Perhaps I may be fortunate enough so to write as to procure the admission that my words are those of truth and soberness.

This introduction and chapter i. were sent by me to the Regius Professor of Divinity, Trinity College, Dublin. He wrote to say "the subject you have chosen lies so completely outside the usual range, that even the small specimen of your work which you have sent me requires much consideration. I had supposed that you proposed to give something of a survey of the different theories that have been put forward concerning the Ten Tribes. The thesis for the D.D. degree is required to be a work of original thought, or of first-hand investigation, of sufficient importance to be a valuable accession to theological literature."

I venture to hope that in the following