

**WATSON REDIVIVUS.  
FOUR DISCOURSES  
WRITTEN BETWEEN THE  
YEARS 1749 AND 1756**

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Watson redivivus. Four discourses written between the years 1749 and 1756 by George Watson

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**GEORGE WATSON**

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YEARS 1749 AND 1756**



# Watson Redivivus.

"He being dead, yet speaketh."—1 Pet. xi, 4.

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## FOUR DISCOURSES,

WRITTEN BETWEEN THE YEARS 1719 AND 1750,

BY

THE REV. GEORGE WATSON, M.A.,

FELLOW OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD;  
THE TUTOR AND FRIEND OF BISHOP HURSE;

RESCUED FROM OBSCURITY

BY

JOHN MATHEW GUTCH,

A LAY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

JOHN HENRY AND JAMES PARKER, OXFORD,  
AND 377 STRAND, LONDON.

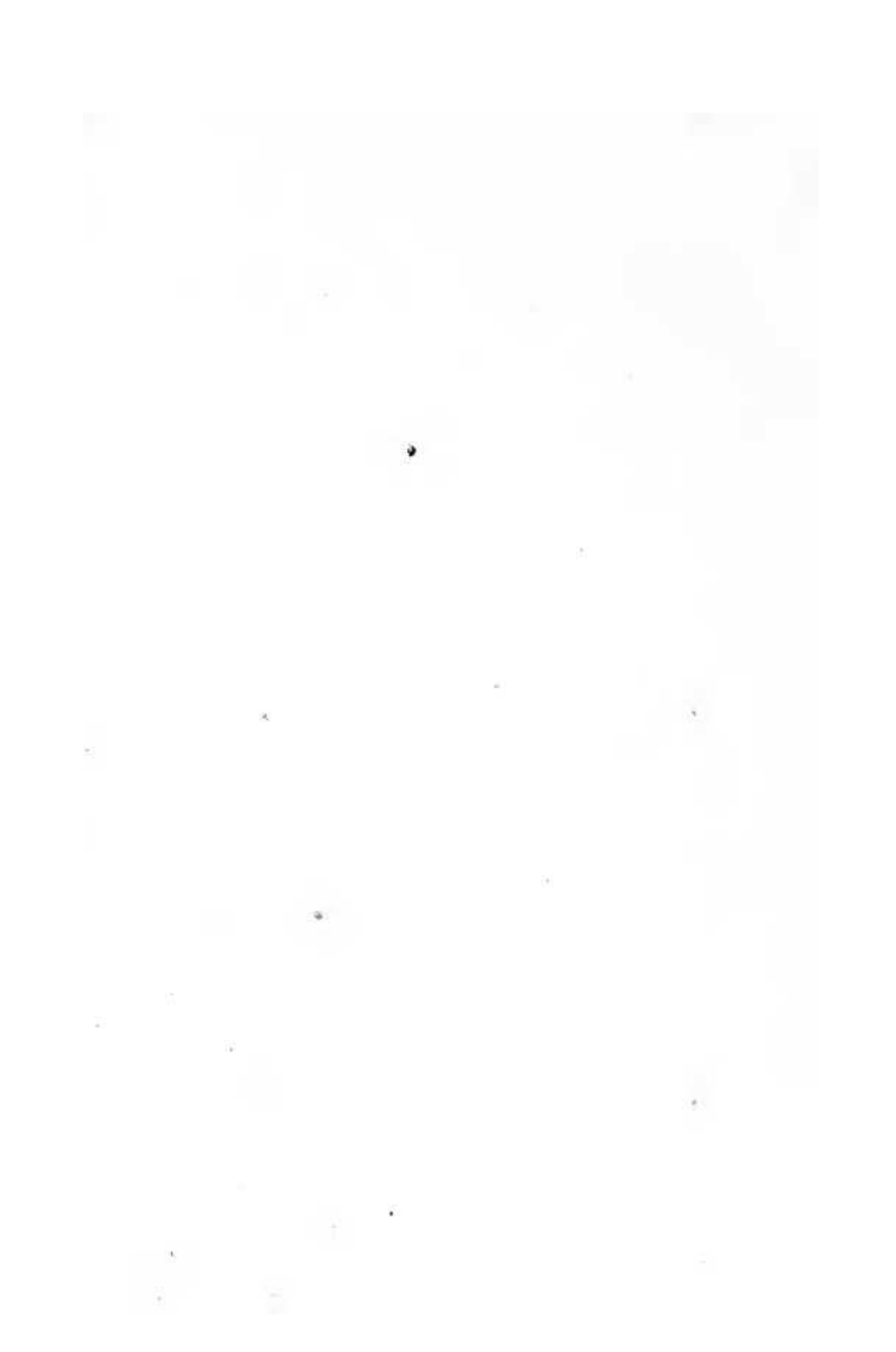
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THESE SERMONS  
ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
TO  
THE REV. F. G. PLUMPTRE, D.D.,  
MASTER OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,—  
OF WHICH COLLEGE  
THE REV. GEORGE WATSON, M.A.,  
WAS A FELLOW,—  
AS A THANKFUL TRIBUTE  
FOR THE  
ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT  
WHICH THE EDITOR HAS RECEIVED  
FROM HIM  
IN BRINGING THIS VOLUME  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC.





PREFACE BY THE EDITOR  
ON THE  
DISCOVERY OF MR. WATSON'S DISCOURSES,  
AND THE  
REASONS FOR THEIR REPUBLICATION.

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THROUGH the mercy of God I have arrived at that age which is not usually allotted to man. At this near approach to the close of life, I have observed with regret angry discussions and divisions springing up among the members of the Church to which I belong, upon its doctrines and discipline. At the same time I am rejoiced to see, there are among the more moderate members of that Church many of its ministers inculcating and inviting a closer union between themselves and the laity, as a means of mitigating such unbecoming controversies, and expressing their deep regret at the introduction of those innovations which are so nearly allied to Romish practices, and causing so much schism among Christians. That these efforts to make this

union closer between the Clergy and Laity are producing their good fruits, may be seen in the liberality of the latter in the building and endowment of new district Churches, in the restoration and repair of old ones, and in the erection of parsonage houses and schools. In many parishes the Laity also are more assiduously than ever rendering assistance to the Clergy, by overlooking the schools, and aiding them in visiting and reading to their poor and afflicted brethren.

As my advanced age and other occurrences in life have prevented me from participating so largely as I could have wished in these good works, I hope I have found another method by which I may confer some good upon the Christian community,—I mean the republication of these Discourses. They have been highly eulogized by more competent judges than myself. One of them is entitled “A Seasonable Admonition to the Church of England,” and, if it was applicable at the time it was preached before the members of the Oxford University, it must be considered more particularly so at the present juncture.

I will now give an account of the way in which the transcripts of these Discourses accidentally fell into my hands. I had been reading in the month

of November last the Rev. William Jones's Lectures upon the Figurative Language of Scripture ; in consequence of which, I sent the following inquiry to that valuable source for information upon literary subjects, the *Notes and Queries* :—

“JONES, OF NAYLAND, AND THE REV. GEORGE WATSON. —When men of such high reputation as the Rev. William Jones, of Nayland, speak in terms of commendation of any publication, we are naturally anxious to become acquainted with its contents. In the second lecture of Mr. Jones upon the Figurative Language of Scripture are the following remarks upon the outward form of worship, in which Christians are in the habit of turning to the East :—

“ ‘Here I would observe,’ he says, ‘that the figures of the Scripture necessarily introduce something figurative into our worship, of which I could give several instances. The primitive Christians signified their relation to the true light, and expressed a religious regard to it, by the outward form of worshipping with their faces towards the east ; because there the light arose out of darkness, and there the day of true knowledge arose, like the sun, upon such as lay buried in ignorance. To this day our Churches, especially that part which is appropriated to the most solemn act of Christian worship, is placed towards the east ; our dead are buried with their faces to the east ; and when we repeat the articles of our faith, we have a custom of turning ourselves to the east. The primitive Christians called their baptism their *illumination* ; to denote which a light was put into the hands of the person after baptism, and they were admitted to hear the lectures of the catechists of the church, under the name of *the illuminated*. The festival of Christ's baptism was celebrated in the month of January with the ceremony of a number of lighted torches. When