THE ONE GOSPEL; OR, THE COMBINATION OF THE NARRATIVES OF THE FOUR EVANGELISTS, IN ONE COMPLETE RECORD

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The One Gospel; Or, The Combination of the Narratives of the Four Evangelists, in One Complete Record by Arthur T. Pierson

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ARTHUR T. PIERSON

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ARTHUR T. PIERSON.

"In the volume of the Book It is written of ME."

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TO THE

BELOVED FELLOW-STUDENTS AND

FELLOW-TEACHERS

OF THE

WORD OF GOD,

WHOSE REVERENT NEARCH INTO THE SCRIPTURES THE HUMBLE COMPILER OF THIS CONDINED GORPEL NABRATIVE WAS PERMITTED, FOR FIVE YEARS, TO CONDUCT, IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE, ON THE DAYS OF PREPARATION AS THE SABBATE DREW ON; AND AT WHORE SUCCEPTION, IN PART, THIS WORE WAS UNDERTAKEN: WITH THE DAILY PRAYER THAT THE MEMBERS OF THAT GREAT RIGHE-CLASS MAY MORE AND MORE FIRD WHATEVER IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IS WRITTEN OF HIM WHORE THEY ARE AND WHOM THEY BERVE-

> This 'One Dospel' is Lowingly and Gratefully Inscribed.

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INTRODUCTION.

FORASMUCH as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eye-witnesses, and ministers of the Word; it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto these in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. This treatise have I made, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he, through the Holy Ghost, had given commandments to the apostles whom he had chosen : to whom he shewed himself alive after his passion, by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. .3

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A WORD PREFATORY.

HE who prayed, "Order my steps in Thy Word," first said, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law." The true child of God loves His Word and craves every help to its devout study.

The four Gospels have been aptly styled "Four Witnesses." In a court of law, after witnesses have taken the stand, it is of great importance so to sum up their testimony with care and skill, as to present at one view every particular detail of the evidence: avoiding both omission and repetition, and at the same time bringing unity and harmony out of seeming diversity and divergence.

Somewhat such is the aim of this work. Each Evangelist furnishes some matter, found, if at all, not so fully, in the other records. We have sought to blend all the various features of the four narratives into one, without losing whatever is distinctive in each. Where words or phrases are retained which seem almost equivalent, we have chosen the risk of repeating, rather than of losing even a slight shade of meaning needed to complete the inspired picture of the life, words and works of the Son of God; and have sought to secure a full rather than a smooth rendering.

The text of the authorized version has been closely followed, without the italics which there mark words supplied by the translators; and, to avoid confusion, using the word, "demon" for "devil," where evil spirits, not Satan, are meant. Paragraph divisions, as determined by the plain sense of each passage, have also been adopted to avoid the loss of connection and continuity.

Without taking the place of the four gospels, this book may be an aid in their study, a commentary wholly biblical, whereby the reader may, at one view, see the complete and harmonious testimony of four independent witnesses. In this