

**THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CENTURY,  
NOTES ON DR. MOFFATT'S  
INTRODUCTION TO THE  
LITERATURE OF THE NEW  
TESTAMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649124961

The first Christian century, notes on Dr. Moffatt's Introduction to the literature of the New Testament by Sir W. M. Ramsay

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**SIR W. M. RAMSAY**

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*INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE OF THE  
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BY  
SIR W. M. RAMSAY

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

1911

122203  
7/5/12

## PREFACE.

As a German classical scholar remarked (I think in "Hermes") some years ago, the methods of Biblical criticism are coming to be a jest among philologists. This book is a protest in the name of history and of literature against the revival of a method in criticism which I had supposed to be antiquated and discredited.

To the ordinary Classical scholar it seems almost a crime to place at wrong dates, and attribute to anonymous and fictitious authors, writings of the highest value as historical authorities and as works of literature. It is a duty to raise one's voice against such a theory. That



the most powerful and lasting movement of the human mind originated in the Church's misunderstanding of a simple person, and was nursed in the "pseudonymous" composition of legend or half-legend about him, is a theory against which I hope always to contend. As soon persuade me that the "great renunciation" of Buddha is a legend! But Buddhism never became a "religion of the Book," and the power of Christianity lies in the Book (as Mohammedans say).

The present work is an enlargement of a series of articles which were written for the most part in trains and hotels, among the excavations by the American scholars at Sardis and under the shadow of Lycaonian hills.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. GENERAL . . . . .	1
II. LITERARY ILLUSTRATIONS IN DR. MOFFATT'S BOOK . . . . .	9
III. LITERATURE AND HISTORY: A DIFFERENCE OF METHOD . . . . .	16
IV. THE FIRST AND THE LATE SECOND CENTURY	21
V. THE PERSONALITY OF PAPIAS AND POLYCARP	23
VI. PAPIAS AS AUTHORITY FOR THE EARLY DEATH OF JOHN THE APOSTLE . . . . .	28
VII. THE SUPPOSED EARLY DEATH OF JOHN . . . . .	47
VIII. THE FASCINATION OF THE SECOND CENTURY . . . . .	52
IX. THE ARGUMENT FROM ACCURACY OF LOCAL DETAILS . . . . .	56
X. EXAMPLES OF THE "IMAGINATIVE RECON- STRUCTION" OF THE PAST IN LITERATURE	64
XI. THE LAWFULNESS OF FALSE ATTRIBUTION IN LITERATURE . . . . .	78
XII. THE GROWTH OF A MIRACLE . . . . .	84

	PAGE
XIII. THE "GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE CHURCH" . . . . .	91
XIV. THE UNITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT . . . . .	94
XV. ORDER AND UNIFYING PRINCIPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT . . . . .	98
XVI. ST. PAUL AS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. . . . .	102
XVII. ST. PAUL AND ST. JOHN . . . . .	108
XVIII. INCIDENT AND TEACHING . . . . .	111
XIX. THE FOURTH GOSPEL AND ITS AUTHOR . . . . .	121
XX. THE "SEMI-PSEUDONYMITY" OF FIRST PETER . . . . .	130
XXI. THE STUDY OF OPINIONS . . . . .	140
XXII. ANALOGIES FROM CLASSICAL NON-CHRISTIAN LITERATURE . . . . .	143
XXIII. THE SOUTH GALATIAN QUESTION . . . . .	150
XXIV. THE PHRYGIAN REGION OF THE PROVINCE GALATIA . . . . .	156
XXV. THE PHRYGIAN LANGUAGE AT ICONIUM . . . . .	165
XXVI. ANTIOCH A GALATIAN CITY . . . . .	172
XXVII. THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS IMPORTANCE OF PISIDIAN ANTIOCH . . . . .	175
XXVIII. A GREEK LINGUISTIC ARGUMENT . . . . .	188
XXIX. CONCLUSION . . . . .	194