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PREFATORY NOTE.

This volume contains, in a revised form, six Lectures given by me last winter upon the foundation of the late Mr. Baird of Auchmedden and Cambusdoon, along with various additions, which were not delivered but are necessary to complete the design of the course.

My aim has been not to treat the subject from a doctrinal or a speculative point of view, or yet from that of popular exposition, but to conduct a purely exegetical inquiry bearing on recent discussions.

In pursuing it I have made large use of the labours of earlier inquirers; and, as my task has been mainly that of sifting and selection, the result is necessarily a mosaic, in which it would hardly be possible to single out and assign to each contributor his own. But I have drawn so freely and fully on the recent monograph of Dr. Wendt of Göttingen, that I owe it alike to him and to myself to explain the circumstances under which I have done so. I had already read the chief works accessible to me on the points concerned, had reached my general conclusions regarding them, and had formed my plan of treatment,

before the work of Dr. Wendt came into my hands. But, when it reached me, I found his discussion of the subject in various respects so fresh, suggestive, and thorough, as to necessitate frequent reference to his views, and to make me desirous of placing before my hearers and readers the main results of a book not much known in this country, and from its special character little likely to be translated. I have therefore deemed it but just towards Dr. Wendt, that I should present them—and, where necessary, the process by which they are reached or vindicated—for the most part in his own words.

I have thought it fair also to the writers whose views I have ventured to combat, to subjoin in the Appendix—even at the risk of some repetition—a fuller statement of their positions couched mainly in their own language.

My thanks are especially due to my colleagues, Dr. Stewart, and Dr. Robertson, for valuable suggestions as the volume was passing through the press.

GLASGOW COLLEGE,
22nd October, 1883.