The Bible, its origin and nature

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THE BIBLE
ITS ORIGIN AND NATURE

BY PROFESSOR MARCUS DODS, D.D.
SEVEN LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE
... LAKE FOREST COLLEGE ...
ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE LATE
... WILLIAM BROSS ...
THE BIBLE

ITS ORIGIN AND NATURE

BY

MARCUS DODS, D.D.

PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS
IN NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH

T. & T. CLARK

1905
THESE LECTURES
Are Gratefully Dedicated
TO
THE PRESIDENT AND PROFESSORS OF
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
AND TO THE OTHER FRIENDS THERE
WHOSE HOSPITALITY AND KINDNESS
MADE THEIR DELIVERY
AN UNUSUAL PLEASURE
AND A LASTING MEMORY
TO
THE AUTHOR
THE BROSS FOUNDATION

In 1879, the late William Bross of Chicago, lieutenant-governor of Illinois in 1866-70, desiring to make some memorial of his son, Nathaniel Bross, who had died in 1856, entered into an agreement with the "Trustees of Lake Forest University," whereby there was finally transferred to the said Trustees the sum of forty thousand dollars, the income of which was to accumulate in perpetuity for successive periods of ten years, at compound interest, the accumulations of one decade to be spent in the following decade, for the purpose of stimulating the production of the best books or treatises "on the connection, relation, and mutual bearing of any practical science, or the history of our race, or the facts in any department of knowledge, with and upon the Christian Religion."

In his deed of gift the founder had in view "the religion of the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, as commonly received in the Presbyterian and other evangelical churches." His object was "to call out the best efforts of the highest talent and the ripest scholarship of the world, to
illustrate from science, or any department of knowledge, and to demonstrate, the divine origin and authority of the Christian Scriptures; and, further, to show how both Science and Revelation coincide, and to prove the existence, the providence, or any or all of the attributes of the one living and true God, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”

At the close of the Trust Agreement, the donor expressed the hope that, by means of this fund, the various authors might, “every ten years, post up the science of the world and show how it illustrates the truth of the Bible, and the existence of God,” and that thereby “the gospel of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the glories of His sacrifice and plan of salvation” might be preached “to the end of time.”

The gift thus contemplated in the original agreement of 1879 was finally consummated in 1890. The first decade of the accumulations of interest having closed in 1900, the Trustees of the Bross Fund began at that time the administration of this important trust.

The Trust Agreement prescribed two methods by which the production of books of the abovementioned character was to be stimulated:

1. One or more premiums or prizes were to be offered during each decade, the competition
for which was to be thrown open to “the scientific men, the Christian philosophers and historians of all nations.”

Accordingly, a prize of six thousand dollars has been offered for the best book fulfilling any of the purposes described in the foregoing extracts from the Trust Agreement, the competing manuscripts to be presented on or before June 1, 1905; for full particulars as to this prize, application should be made to the undersigned.

Once in every fifty (or thirty years, according as the Trustees of the fund may decide at the time) the entire amount of simple interest accumulated during the previous decade is to be offered as a single premium or prize for a similar competition.

2. The Trustees of the Bross Fund were also empowered from time to time to select and appoint particular scholars, who should prepare books, upon some theme within the terms of the Trust Agreement, that would “illustrate” or “demonstrate” or commend the Christian Religion, or any phase of it, to the times in which we live.

Ordinarily, it is proposed that the writers of the books thus prepared should be asked to deliver the substance of such books in the form of lectures before Lake Forest College, and any
of the general public who may desire to attend them, such courses to be known as the Bross Lectures.

The Trust Agreement further provides for the publication, by the Trustees of the Bross Fund, of the books prepared under either of the two methods above described.

Two writers have already been specially appointed in pursuance of the second method: —

The first was the Reverend President Francis Landey Patton, D.D., LL.D., of the Princeton Theological Seminary, who, in May, 1903, delivered a course of five lectures before Lake Forest College, on "Obligatory Morality." These lectures are now the property of the Trustees of the Bross Fund, and will be published in due season after the author has been given the opportunity to revise and expand them.

The second of the writers thus specially appointed was the Reverend Professor Marcus Dods, D.D., of New College, Edinburgh, who, in May, 1904, delivered a course of lectures before Lake Forest College, on "The Bible: Its Origin and Nature." These lectures are embodied in the present volume.

As a token of the donor's affectionate remembrance of his "friend and teacher," the late Mark Hopkins, the distinguished President of