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**Letters ... 1866-1885**

**Ker John**

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**Title: Letters ... 1866-1885**

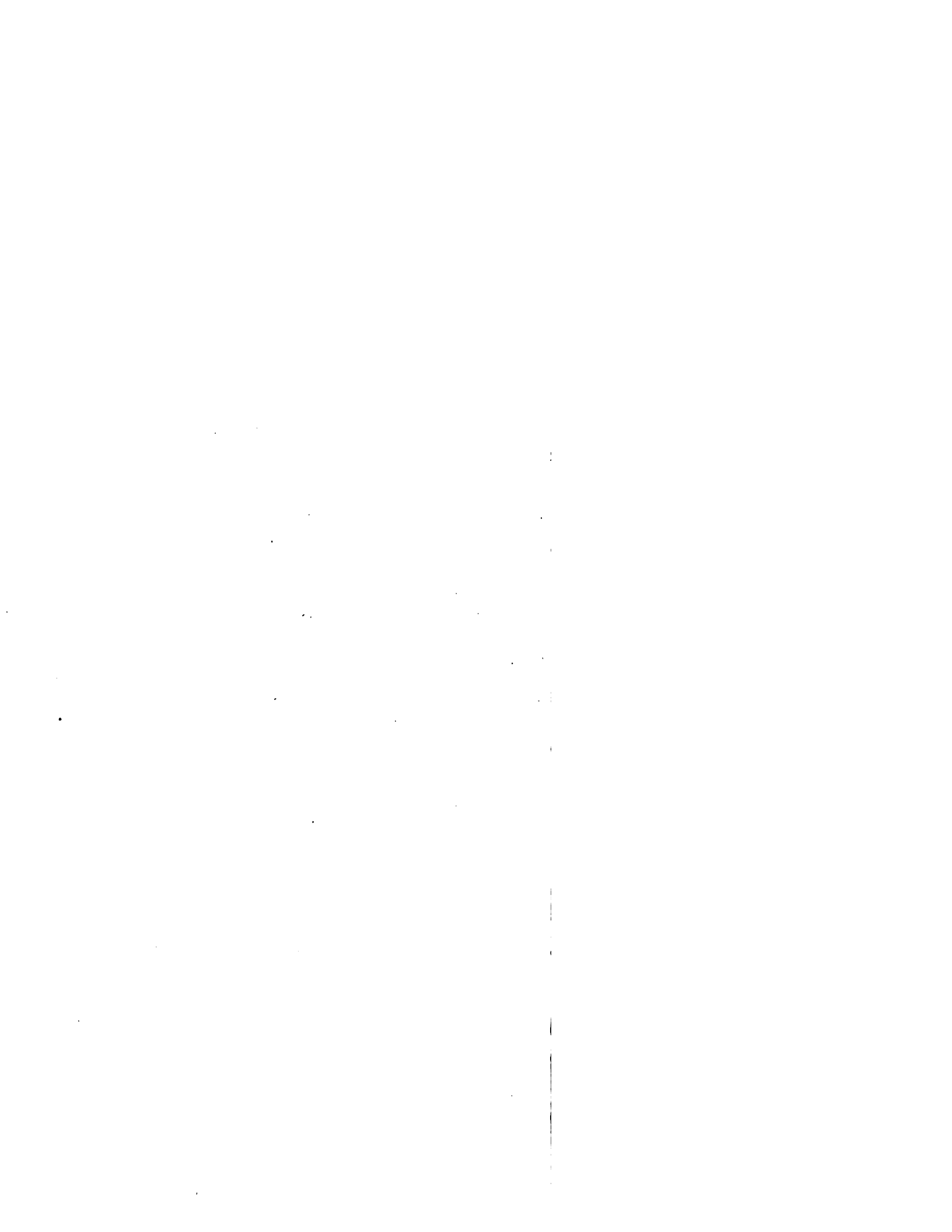
**Author: Ker John**

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LETTERS.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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"The quality of the letters, from the literary standpoint, is of the highest; they are worthy of rank, in that respect, with those of Cowper. Written with no thought of their publication, they have a freshness and ease of style that are intensely enjoyable; it is as though the writer were holding a quiet talk with the reader, and pouring out the treasures of his thought and experience with the directness and freedom which, often attained in conversation, is rarely to be met with in books."—*Scottish Leader*.

"It has all the charm of his conversation, and reveals on every page some winsome personal trait that brings the writer very near to us, showing him in all the aspects of a character that combined in singular perfection the elements of strength and tenderness."—*Christian Leader*.

"The letters make up a volume that will be almost fascinating to all who have wit to appreciate the subjects discussed in it."—*Fifehire Journal*.

"They are, if possible, even fuller of that happy spontaneity which characterised all his work."—*North British Daily Mail*.

"There is not only the evidence of great literary culture in these letters, but they are filled with heart and deep religious feeling as well."—*Glasgow Evening News*.

"Dr. Ker's correspondence is marked by the same delicacy of touch and refinement, the same spirit of wholesome piety, and the same broad interest in all phases of human thought and life which characterise everything he wrote."—*Glasgow Herald*.

"There is nothing in the volume that is not worthy of Dr. Ker, and there is much in it that will be read with interest, admiration, and profit, by those at least who had the advantage of knowing him and coming under his personal influence."—*Scotsman*.

# LETTERS

OF THE

REV. JOHN KER, D.D.

1866—1885

"The INTERPRETER then called for a manservant of his, one GREAT-HEART, and bid him take SWORD, and HELMET, and SHIELD; and take these my daughters, said he, and conduct them to the house called BEAUTIFUL, at which place they will rest next. So he took his weapons and went before them; and the INTERPRETER said, God speed."

*The Pilgrim's Progress*

**Second Edition**

EDINBURGH  
DAVID DOUGLAS, CASTLE STREET

1890

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THEODORE JEWETT EASTMAN  
1931

"AND THE SERVANT OF THE LORD MUST NOT STRIVE, BUT  
BE GENTLE UNTO ALL MEN; APT TO TEACH, PATIENT."

—2 TIM. ii. 24.

K

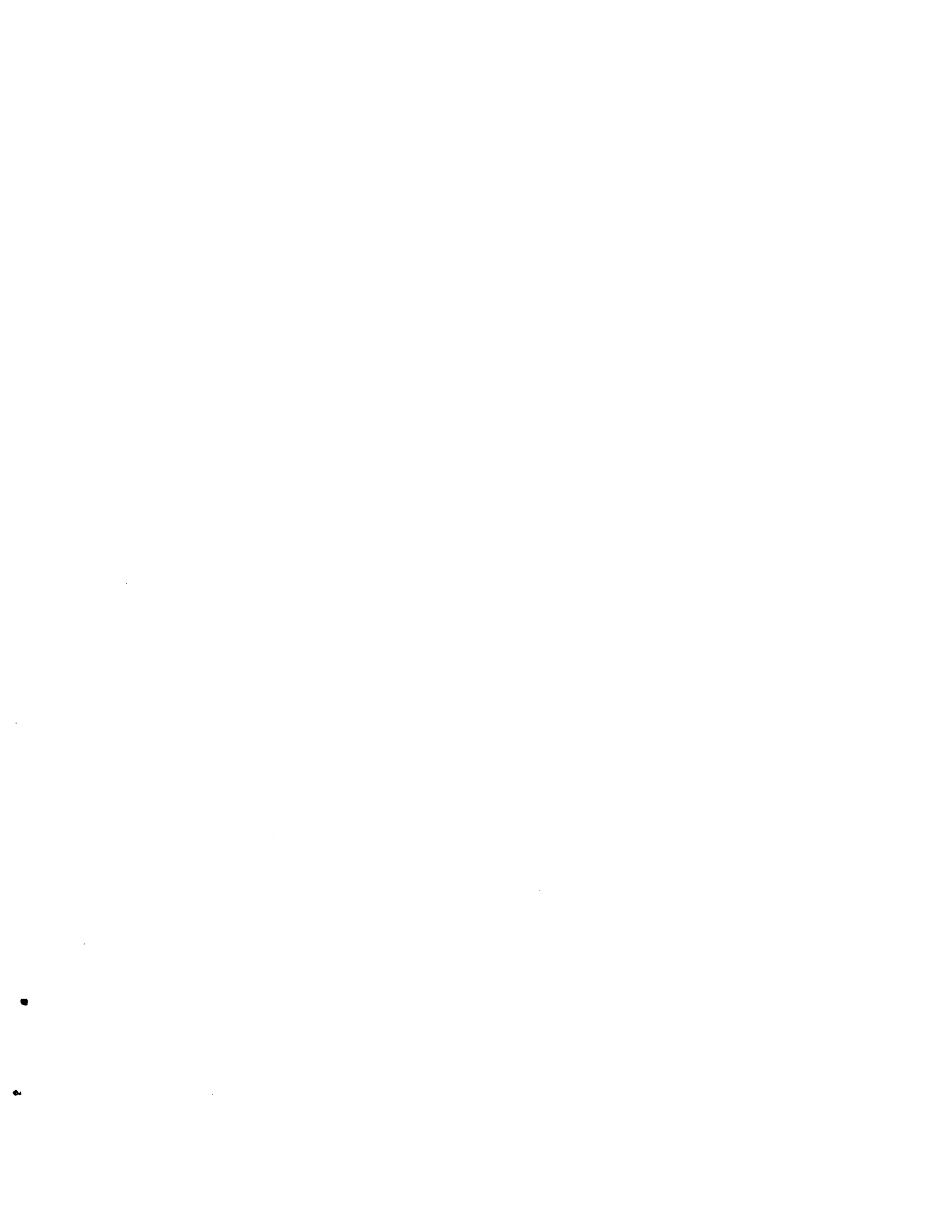
## P R E F A C E.



THE members of a family who had the privilege of Dr. Ker's intimate friendship for many years, have preserved his letters. The survivors among those to whom they were written feel that the loss would be great, especially to those who knew Dr. Ker and revere his memory, did these letters share the fate of ordinary correspondence. They therefore publish some of them in the hope that words which brought so much light to them may be helpful to others.

They have tried to leave out all that did not seem to be of general or permanent interest, and, as far as possible, everything of a merely personal character.

*November 1889.*



## LETTERS.



To \* \* \* \* \*

GLASGOW, *August 31*, 1866.

I HAVE been hearing, with deep sympathy, of your long and sore illness, and of the state of extreme weakness in which you now are; but it gives me great happiness, also, to learn that God is granting to you resignation to His will. However hard and dark things may seem for a while, that will of God, our Heavenly Father, must be the best. It is a great thing if, in some measure, now, we can believe it; and in due time we shall be brought to see and feel it. We shall not wish then to alter one part, for the darkest scenes of our life shall come out brightest, just as the darkest part of our Lord and Saviour's life is now that which is most full of salvation and praise, and as His cross and His