

PREFACE

PERHAPS the most conspicuous gain of recent study of the Old Testament has been the re-discovery of the prophets. For centuries they were but honoured names, the bearers of certain golden words that shone out lustrous over the ages, while their own personalities remained in shadow. Now the prophets stand in the clear light of history, as the great figures of the ancient Revelation, the men through whose word and influence the vision broadened towards the perfect day. But they are no mere historical figures. As poets, preachers, moralists, statesmen, seers and reformers—heralds of the coming Kingdom—above all, as men of God, who knew His mind, and walked with Him in spirit and truth, they are abiding fountains of inspiration for those who seek after righteousness.

Individual prophets have received brilliant exposition at the hands of English-speaking scholars. There is still room, however, for a comprehensive treatment of the subject, which allows the prophets to speak for themselves. The present volume seeks to fulfil this ideal, within necessary limits. The