

## PREFACE.

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THIS little book is an attempt to place the poetical passages of the historical books of the Old Testament in their historic setting, or occasion; to express them in their natural form of poetic rhythm, and to set forth, in brief, their substance and arrangement.

No attempt has been made to reason out at length the intricate problem of date and authorship, but the principle on which these may be determined is stated, and the historic setting, as well as the probable occasion for the poem, is given.

Nor was it found possible to give reasons for any choice in cases where the translation differs from other received versions of Scripture. This could only be done in a more extended treatise.

All that is hoped for is, that the translations and explanations may enable readers to better understand some of those portions of Scripture often found so difficult.

JOHN McNAIR.

Oakville, Ont.,  
November 12, 1902.