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MESSIANIC PROPHECY.*

WHEN I retired from the University, I had fully determined not to enter again the arena of Biblical controversy, and it is only at the earnest request of some esteemed Methodist ministers to give my views of the Messianic passages controverted in Professor Workman's lecture, that I now take up my pen contrary to my resolve.

At the outset, we may remark that it is impossible to overestimate the importance of the subject involved, for if Professor Workman's conclusions regarding the Messianic prophecies are correct, then not only have a vast number of eminent critics and commentators given erroneous interpretations of the same, but Christ Himself and His apostles have misapplied them. On page 448, Professor Workman makes the following remarkable statement :

“In the Prophetic age, Messianic prophecy proper appears ; but even here there is no prophetic passage that has an original reference to the New Testament Messiah. While, therefore, portions of the Hebrew Scriptures abound with Messianic prophecy, there is no passage in the Old Testament that refers directly and predictively to Jesus Christ ; that is, there is no passage in which the future Messiah stood objectively before the writer's mind, or in which the prophet made particular and personal reference to the historic Christ.”

*A review of Professor Workman's lecture on “Messianic Prophecy,” published in the October number of THE CANADIAN METHODIST QUARTERLY. By J. M. Hirschfelder.