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BY  
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## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Chapter I</i> Introduction	i
II The Kingdom of Christ	23
III Newman's Essay on Development and Maurice's Critique thereof	47
IV Christianity and the Religions of the World	73
V The Theological Essays	94
VI What is Revelation?	113
VII Maurice on Education	130
VIII Maurice and Social Ethics	151
 <i>Index</i>	 169

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## PREFACE

IN his charming history of the House of Macmillan, Mr Charles Morgan describes F. D. Maurice as one of the Macmillans' closest friends and most prolific authors. The Macmillan brothers, Alexander and Daniel, regarded Maurice as a prophet. Mr Charles Morgan finds their enthusiasm a little puzzling. 'Though it may seem almost an insult on Alexander's memory to say so (for Alexander had no doubt of "the Prophet's" greatness), to a later generation of readers the Rev. F. D. Maurice himself will have to be a little explained.' If such explanation be indeed necessary, I hope the studies that follow will contribute to it, if only by encouraging some abler theologian to better them. But in any case I am persuaded that the present generation would gain from a closer acquaintance with the thought of Frederick Denison Maurice.

If I were writing a dedication for this volume, I should name first the Principal and Staff of Mansfield College, Oxford, who did me the honour of inviting me to deliver Dale lectures in the academic year 1942–3. I am further indebted to them for accepting my proposal to lecture on the place of Maurice in the religious thought of the Victorian Era. In a dedication I should wish to associate with the authorities of Mansfield College, the Faculty of Arts, the Senate and the Council of the University of Birmingham who appointed me first Professor of Theology in the University, and thus enabled me to enjoy six years of teaching when I could devote my chief attention to the theme of this book.

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## PREFACE

My debt to my predecessors in this particular field will be obvious, and is even greater than appears. I cannot, however, close this preface without two particular acknowledgments. I was encouraged to think my choice of subject not inappropriate for a lectureship founded in memory of a great Congregational divine, when the Rev. K. L. Parry drew my attention to Dr Mackennal's appreciation of the influence of Maurice on Congregationalists. Subsequently the Regius Professor of History in Oxford, Sir Maurice Powicke, lent me a copy of the *Congregational Quarterly* containing the striking tribute to Maurice by his father, Dr F. J. Powicke. In preparing the lectures to appear in book form, I have been able to draw on this admirable article. To the Rev. K. L. Parry and to Professor Powicke I tender my sincere thanks.