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LECTURES  
ON  
THE LUNAR THEORY

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## PREFACE.

THE following lectures were collected from manuscripts left by the late Professor J. C. Adams, and are now reprinted without change from his Collected Scientific Papers, Vol. II., pp. 1—84.

It was thought that the wide interest attaching to the lunar problem reached many besides the professed astronomer, and would justify a separate publication of this short work.

It is known that Adams contemplated the publication of some such essay himself, and it must be a matter of regret to all that he never did so. No pains have been spared to present the material properly, but it is unavoidable that it should appear from the hands of an editor in a less perfect form than if the author had issued it himself.

Yet, allowing for this disadvantage, I think those best qualified to judge will consider this work fully worthy of Adams's great name. Of current elementary theories it may be said that they leave off where the difficulties of the subject begin, that is to say, where the various cases of slow convergence have been exposed, but not dealt with. It is perhaps not too much to say that these lectures carry us to the point where such difficulties end, in an adequate evaluation of all the chief constants. They leave the problem effectively solved and not merely stated, and shew the path clear for the formation of a detailed theory, if that is desired.

R. A. SAMPSON.

DURHAM.  
8 *October*, 1900.

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