

ESSAY

ON THE

RIGHT ESTIMATION OF MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

IN THE TEXT OF

THE NEW TESTAMENT.

BY

THOMAS RAWSON BIRKS, M.A.

KNIGHTBRIDGE PROFESSOR, CAMBRIDGE,

AND HON. CANON OF ELY.

London:

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1878

[All Rights reserved.]

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |

CHAPTER I.

| | |
|---|---|
| THE DOCTRINE OF GROUPS AND FAMILIES | 6 |
|---|---|

CHAPTER II.

| | |
|--|----|
| ON THE WEIGHT DUE TO ANTIQUITY | 22 |
|--|----|

CHAPTER III.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| ON LATER IMPROVEMENT OF MSS. | 33 |
|--------------------------------------|----|

CHAPTER IV.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| ON INTERNAL EVIDENCE | 41 |
|--------------------------------|----|

CHAPTER V.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| ON HARMONISTIC CHANGES | 49 |
|----------------------------------|----|

CHAPTER VI.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| ON PROBABLE RATES OF MANUSCRIPT CORRUPTION | 56 |

CHAPTER VII.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| THE VATICAN AND SINAITIC MSS. | 63 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

CHAPTER VIII.

| | |
|--|----|
| THE LATERAL INDEPENDENCE OF MSS. | 70 |
|--|----|

CHAPTER IX.

| | |
|--|----|
| THE EARLIER AND LATER EVIDENCE | 76 |
|--|----|

CHAPTER X.

| | |
|--|----|
| VARIOUS LECTIONS, MATT. I—VII. | 82 |
|--|----|

CHAPTER XI.

| | |
|---|-----|
| VARIOUS LECTIONS, MATT. VIII—XXI. | 104 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| TABLES | 125 |
|------------------|-----|