

PREFACE

It is a pleasure, soon after the appearance of the second volume in the series "Semitic texts with translations", to be able to introduce a third volume.

While the two previous volumes offered post-biblical Hebrew texts, it seemed desirable this time to present one of the earliest and finest products of Syriac literature to wider attention.

We profit by the fortunate circumstance that the author of the present work, H.J.W. Drijvers, attached to the Department of Semitic languages of the State University of Groningen, who hopes this year to defend a doctoral dissertation on Bardaiṣān at the above university, was willing to publish the results of the studies he devoted to the text and translation of the *Ketābā d'enāmūsē datrāwātā* in this series.

To all, then, who take an interest in Semitic literature or in the history of the early Eastern Church, this volume is most heartily recommended!

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J. H. HOSPERS

