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GRACE OF EPISCOPACY
AND OTHER SERMONS**

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The church public library. The grace of episcopacy and other sermons by H. C. Beeching

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H. C. BEECHING

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THE GRACE OF
EPISCOPACY

AND OTHER SERMONS
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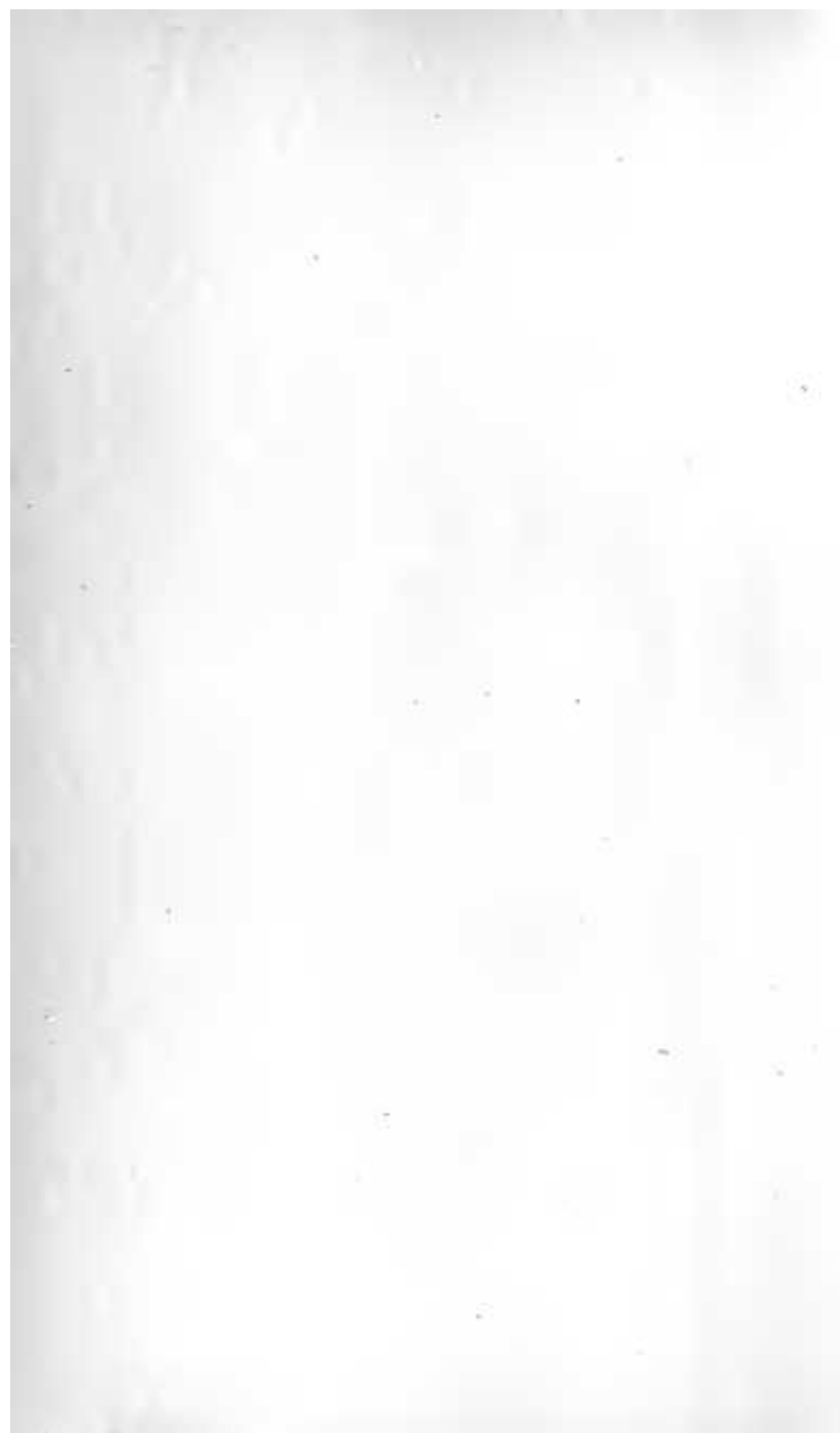
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THE
GRACE OF EPISCOPACY
AND OTHER SERMONS.

I.

THE GRACE OF EPISCOPACY.

PREACHED IN YORK MINSTER ON THE FEAST OF THE
PRESENTATION, 1904.

"And Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister: and whosoever would be first among you shall be servant of all. For verily the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."—MARK x. 42-5.

THERE had been an attempt, you will remember, on the part of two of the apostles to secure what seemed to the rest an unwarrantable pre-eminence; and our Lord, while dealing very tenderly with the two brethren, took

occasion to explain to all what pre-eminence in His society must mean, and what authority, as He understood it, really consisted in. To make the matter quite clear He put two pictures before them side by side. The first was the lordship of the Gentiles; the throne and state of Herod or Pilate, whom men strove to conciliate with presents and before whose frown they trembled. And then He turned their eyes upon Himself, whose Kingship they acknowledged with all their hearts and wished to share, and they saw One not being served, but serving; not exacting gifts, but giving them; surrounded not by obsequious courtiers, but by disciples whom He taught and trained; and devoting all the hours of the day to the service of His people instead of laying claim upon their service. The contrast was deep and unforgettable, and the lesson from the contrast easy to draw; it taught them that the only pre-eminence in the divine society was to be pre-eminence in ministering, and the only true authority that of influence.

We are met together this morning, fathers and brethren, as a province of the kingdom of Christ in England, to invoke the special blessing of the Holy Spirit upon two of our number, who having served the King, as we well believe, with all their heart and mind and strength in this and that great city of His dominion, and approved themselves faithful and wise stewards, are to be sent forth now to still wider opportunities of service. And it is natural and fitting, especially on this great festival of our Lord's dedication in His Father's house, that to hearten them, if we may, for the new mission, we should fix our thoughts, with them, upon Him who is the one and only model of a true governor, and remind them and ourselves of what sort is the authority which He now commits to them in His kingdom.

“The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” So our Lord sums up for us the secret of His sway over our hearts. It was not, as we know, by a mere voice from