

**A MIRROR OF FAITH:  
LAYS AND LEGENDS OF  
THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND**

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A mirror of faith: lays and legends of the Church in England by J. M. Neale

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**J. M. NEALE**

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By the same Author.

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TO THE  
REV R. T. LOWE, M.A.,  
BRITISH CHAPLAIN, AT MADEIRA,  
The following Ballads,  
WRITTEN, FOR THE MOST PART, IN THAT ISLAND,  
ARE,  
IN TOKEN OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE,  
INSCRIBED BY  
THE AUTHOR.

## PREFACE.

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IT has been well observed that in relating the various contests between the Church and the world historians have always sided with the latter against the former. The mystical Powers and Divine Claims of the one have been set down to presumption and bigotry: the earthly wisdom and unprincipled expediency of the other have been lauded as the security of 'Civil and Religious Liberty.' Therefore it is that a brand has been fixed to the names of such men as S. Ambrose, and S. Gregory VII, and Nicen: as S. Dunstan, and S. Anselm, and S. Thomas of Canterbury, and Laud, and Sancroft. Had they been of the world, the world would have loved its own.

In direct contradiction to this popular view, the object of the following ballads is to set the principal events of the Church History of Britain before the reader, in that light in which they appeared to the contemporary Church. It is plain that general effect is rather to be regarded in them, than minute historical accuracy. We, writing at such a distance of time, and without a practical acquaintance with the Ritual of the unreformed Church, can only hope to attain to the outlines of the picture, and the strongest lights and shadows: minuteness in the scenery and landscape is out of the question. Or, to make use of another comparison, we may hope to be like some Catholic-minded architect of the seventeenth century, who, though unable to recall the details of Christian art, might yet, by arrangement and grouping, succeed in producing a Catholic effect.

Notes and introductions have been added where they might, by any possibility, be considered necessary; and the writer trusts that he has not, ignorantly, as assuredly he has not wilfully, misrepresented any fact or character. If he shall appear in any case to have passed a presumptuous judgment, it must be remembered that his aim was to point out the manner in which, even in this