

**CHURCH DEFENCE, BY A
DISSENTING MINISTER;
TWO LECTURES**

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Church Defence, by a Dissenting Minister; Two Lectures by Robert Christison

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ROBERT CHRISTISON

**CHURCH DEFENCE, BY A
DISSENTING MINISTER;
TWO LECTURES**

CHURCH DEFENCE,

BY

A DISSENTING MINISTER.

Two Lectures,

BY THE

REV. ROBERT CHRISTISON,

Late Dissenting Minister at Orrell, near Wigan, Lancashire.



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The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the
 Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis in the field of
 behavior analysis. It highlights the journal's role in
 disseminating research findings and its impact on the
 development of applied behavior analysis as a discipline.
 The authors also mention the journal's commitment to
 publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed research.

The second part of the paper provides a historical overview
 of the journal's development. It traces the journal's
 roots back to its predecessor, *The Journal of Experimental
 and Clinical Psychology*, and discusses the changes that
 led to its current form. The authors also mention the
 journal's transition to a more applied focus and its
 subsequent growth in circulation and influence.

The third part of the paper discusses the journal's
 editorial process and its commitment to maintaining high
 standards of research. It describes the role of the
 editorial board and the journal's policies regarding
 peer review, plagiarism, and copyright. The authors also
 mention the journal's efforts to make its content more
 accessible to a wider audience through online access and
 translations.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the journal's
 future prospects and its role in the field of behavior
 analysis. It highlights the journal's commitment to
 publishing cutting-edge research and its efforts to
 expand its reach and influence. The authors also mention
 the journal's plans to continue to improve its quality
 and to provide a platform for the advancement of the
 field.

A Plea for Church Defence.

LECTURE I.

DELIVERED IN THE CORN EXCHANGE, PRESTON, AND IN VARIOUS
OTHER TOWNS.

*“What have the Dissenters to offer in room of
the Church which they seek to destroy?—
A Plea for Church Defence.”*

I SUPPOSE it is not a very usual thing to find a Dissenting minister on a Church of England platform, and that, too, for the purpose of lecturing in defence of the Church. Allow me, therefore, at the outset, to offer a word or two by way of explanation.

In the first place, then, as perhaps my manner of speech may have already told you, I am not an Englishman at all, neither am I an Irishman. But though neither an Englishman nor an Irishman, I happen to be a Briton, and a lover of

British institutions. I am a plain Scotchman, from among the hills on the other side of the Tweed. But though not a born and bred Englishman, I love England. I came to it in quest of health, and it gave it me. It has been the land of my adoption for the last ten years, so that I must now have some interest in it, and am not altogether a stranger to, nor am I indifferent, to what is going on in its ecclesiastical affairs.

In the second place, although through a sort of concurrence of circumstances I came to be associated with the Dissenters, yet I cannot say that I have been a very hard and fast one, at least after the modern English type of them, and the less so as I became better acquainted with their principles, and also their practices. English Dissent turns out to be a very different thing from what in my ignorance and simplicity I was led to suppose it was. The Dissenterism of the Baxters, and Owens, and Henrys, and Howes of other days I could sympathize with, but the Dissenterism of Mr. Miall and his followers I do not and never could agree with.

Moreover, I have of late been more carefully *examining* the whole of this subject. I have

had my eyes open to the working of Dissent around me for the last ten years, and have learned a good deal of what it is elsewhere in this country; and while I freely grant that Dissenters do, and have done much good in their way, and that there are a great many excellent people among them,—people for which our country and our Christianity have cause to be proud,—people from whom I myself have experienced personal kindness, and whom I will regard with more than feelings of respect as long as I live,—yet I have arrived at the conviction—the honest conviction—that the principles on which their system is founded, are erroneous, and that the policy which so many of them are at present pursuing towards the Established Church is altogether wrong,—that it is unwise and rash, unfair and unjust, unprovoked and uncalled for, and that were it carried out, would ere long bring about a religious state of things in this country, so sad, that I believe many of the wisest and the best people among themselves, would be the first to deplore.

With these convictions I feel it a duty to oppose them in their attack upon the National Church, and this all the more that the system