

**THE LITURGY OF
THE
PRIMITIVE CHURCH**

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The liturgy of the primitive church by Reginald Maxwell Woolley

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Liturg.
W.

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PRIMITIVE CHURCH

by

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PREFACE

THE history of the Liturgical uses of the Church must always be a matter of interest to all churchmen. It has, perhaps, a special interest to us in these days when we are hearing so much of proposals for the revision of the Liturgy of the Church of England.

In the consideration of our English Liturgy with a view to such revision we turn very naturally to the Latin use which was the immediate parent of our Prayer Book, and at the same time we are deeply interested in the Liturgies of the Eastern Churches.

It may, however, perhaps be questioned as to whether we are not inclined to neglect too much for these—comparatively speaking—late developments of the Liturgy in East and West, the more homely and less rigid Liturgical uses of the earliest centuries of the Church, those centuries in which the Church was more in touch than she has ever been since with the general life and the every day needs of her members.

But whether such be the case or not, I hope that this book may prove not unuseful to those who are beginning the study of Liturgiology, and that it may serve as an introduction, however unworthy, to such standard works as Brightman's "Liturgies Eastern and Western." I have to thank Professors Swete and Burkitt for kindly criticisms and suggestions during the preparation of this book, which has been accepted by the Divinity Professors of the University of Cambridge as sufficient for the degree of B.D.

R. M. W.

October 1910.

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