ENGLISH CHURCH HISTORY: FROM THE DEATH OF KING HENRY VII, TO THE DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP PARKER; FOUR LECTURES

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English church history: from the death of King Henry VII, to the death of Archbishop Parker; four lectures by Alfred Plummer

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ALFRED PLUMMER

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FOUR LECTURES

BY THE

REV. ALFRED PLUMMER, M.A., D.D.

FORMERLY FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DXYORD AND MASTER OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM

> Γίγνονται al στάσεις οὐ περί μικρῶν ἀλλ' ἐκ μικρῶν, στασιάζουσι δὲ περί μεγάλων. μάλιστα δὲ καὶ al μικραὶ ἰσχύοισιν, ὅταν ἐν τοῖς κυρίοις γένωνται.



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INTRODUCTION.

THESE lectures are not intended for experts, and, in the first instance, they were not intended for publication. They were written for popular audiences in connexion with the Exeter Diocesan Church Reading Society; and their object was, and is, to stimulate interest in the fortunes of the Church of England at a very critical period of its history, and, if possible, to give an intelligible statement of the main factors in the crisis. And they have been printed in response to repeated requests for publication, and also in consequence of the kind reception which a recently published volume upon a later period has enjoyed.¹ But there has been no attempt to find new answers to obscure questions, or attractive solutions of unsolved problems. The aim has been to make vivid a few important features, to call attention to certain dominating facts, and to avoid bewildering the listener or reader with a large number of details. The

¹ English Church History from the Death of Archbishop Parker to the Death of Charles I. Four Lectures by the Rev. A. Plummer. T. & T. Clark. Ss. net.

INTRODUCTION

omissions of even important events are very numerous; and many persons, who played no small part in those stirring times, are nowhere mentioned in these pages. It would be easy to challenge the wisdom of the selection which has been made between what is stated and what is passed over without mention ; but it is hoped that the framework of the lectures is constructed of materials that are substantial, and that there is enough detail to give life and colour. As to the inferences which from time to time are drawn, the lecturer cannot hope always to command assent. The time will probably never arrive when we can all agree even about the facts of such a time of bitter controversy; and agreement about interpretation of the facts is still more difficult to reach. But it is possible to endeavour to be fair; and the attempt has been made in these lectures. They will serve a good purpose, if they help someone else to try to be fair, and to be more successful in the effort.

Original authorities have, to a considerable extent, been used; yet these lectures are mainly based upon modern works, and in some places are derived directly from them. But the writer has endeavoured to weigh things for himself, and to put forward only what, on reasonable grounds, is at least tenable. Some good will have been done, if the desire to challenge what he has written leads other persons to find more tenable views for themselves.

One point about which there is room for divergent views is that of the continuity of the

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