

**ILLUSTRATED NOTES ON ENGLISH
CHURCH HISTORY. VOL. I: FROM
THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE
DAWN OF THE REFORMATION**

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Illustrated Notes on English Church History. Vol. I: From the Earliest Times to the Dawn of the Reformation by C. Arthur Lane

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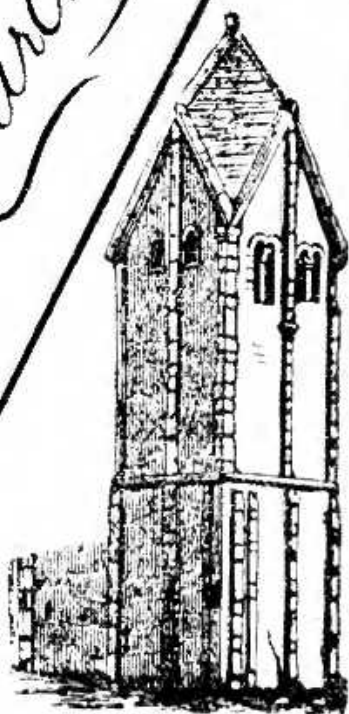
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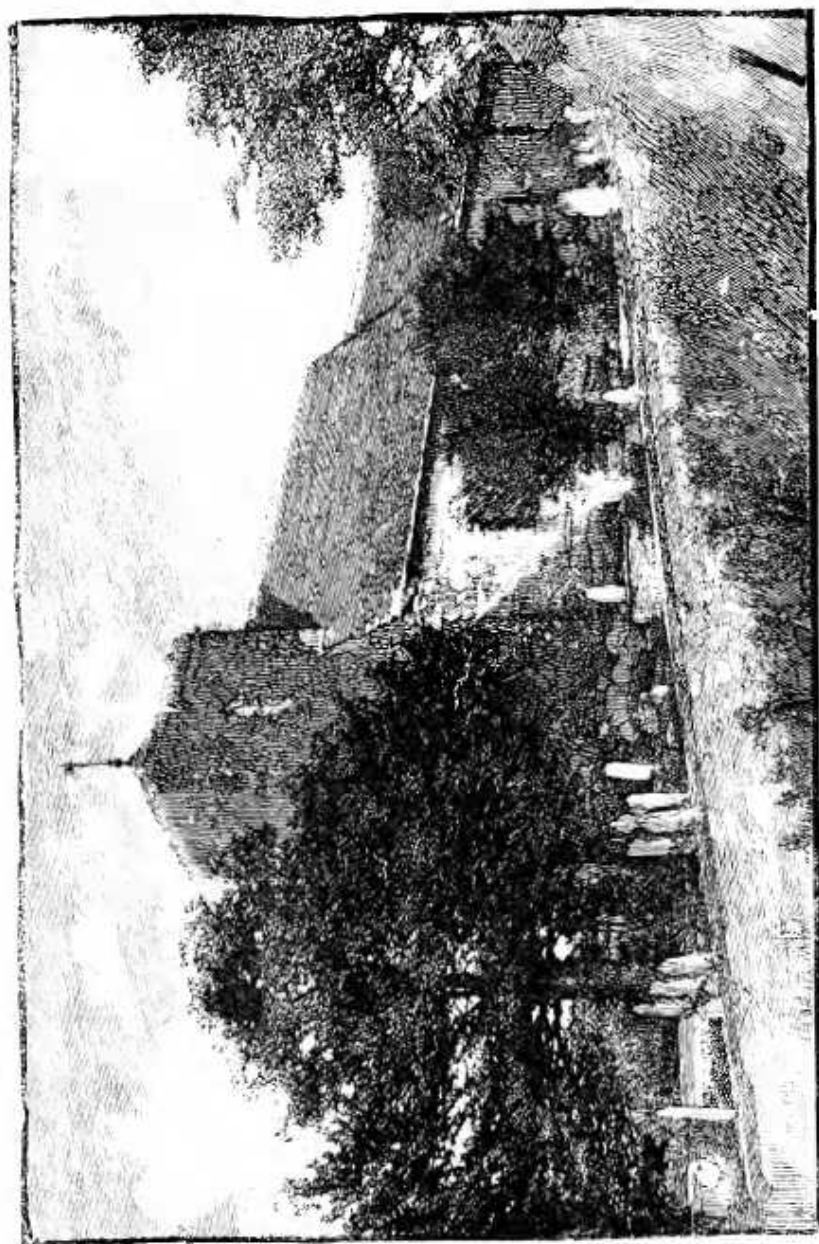
FROM EARLIEST
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*Illustrated Notes
on
English Church History*

80th
THOUSAND





(See Pages 48-50.)

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY.

The walls of the nave are part of the old church built before the coming of Augustine.



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VOL. I.
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
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THE DAWN OF THE REFORMATION.

BY THE
REV. C. ARTHUR LANE

(F.R.Hist.S.—Lecturer of the Church Defence Institution, etc.)

EIGHTIETH THOUSAND.

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VOL. II.

"ITS REFORMATION AND MODERN WORK."

*** The two volumes traverse the whole range of Church History in Britain. They contain over two hundred illustrations, including every cathedral in England and Wales, and many notable abbeys and churches.*



P R E F A C E

TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

The title of this book explains itself. It is not an exhaustive Church History, but a collection of notes thereon. There cannot be any pretence to originality in a subject that has been variously treated in every generation, but the enquiries for a cheap illustrated book about the Church of England, similar to the Author's illustrated lectures, has suggested the advisability of issuing the substance of some of them in this permanent form. Church Histories are mostly written for students, or are beyond the financial reach of the general public. Such popular handy volumes as bear upon the subject deal mainly with special aspects only, or do not afford such a clear idea of its consecutiveness as will enable the majority of Churchmen to understand the arguments and meet the assertions of those who differ from the doctrines of, or envy the noble position occupied by the English Church.

To place a connected series of historical facts before the public in an agreeable guise, at a price within the reach of the humblest, is the chief object of the Author. At the same time readers are warned not to expect herein a complete record of

all the important facts and persons connected with our Church in every age, but only to look for sufficient typical examples as will help them to judge for themselves of the incorrectness of theories recently advanced by modern adversaries of the English Church; as for instance—(1) That it is of comparatively recent origin; or (2) that it owes its existence, position, and emoluments to the favour of the civil government; or (3) that whatever of its history belongs to antiquity is traceable to its connexion with and subjection to the Church of Rome.

Up to the Norman Conquest the history of the Church and the history of the people are so closely interwoven that it is impossible to separate them. This is because our knowledge of what occurred in the earliest times is derived almost exclusively from the writings of ecclesiastics, the religious houses being for ages the sole depositories of literature and science. Until the days of King Alfred it was an exceptional occurrence to find the nobility or princes devoting themselves to peaceful arts or intellectual acquirements; those who felt so disposed invariably left the world behind them, and joined some monastic community, although they may have stopped short of the higher ministerial Orders. Books written under these auspices were more dependent on traditional stories, more associated with superstitious improbabilities than we expect to find in impartial histories; yet we may easily eliminate the superstitious and unauthentic parts, retaining such portions as commend themselves to common sense, and so glean a tolerably concise and continuous record of the National Church.

The life of the Church in our land comprises several distinct epochs. In its **EARLY HISTORY**, with which alone this book presumes to deal, we have:—

- I.—The period when the earliest known inhabitants of our country were flourishing under Roman rule as Christians.

II.—The period when the heathen Anglo-Saxon and Danish tribes supplanted them in the eastern parts of the Island, and in turn received the faith.

III.—The Mediaeval period, when the land was ruled by the Norman and Plantagenet Kings, and the Church was more or less subject to Papal influence.

And then there is its more MODERN HISTORY, which will form the theme for a companion volume, comprising:—

IV.—The period commonly known as “The Reformation,” under the Tudor Dynasty, during which the Church resumed its ancient independence.

V.—The troublous times of the Stuarts, when the Puritan sects threatened to overwhelm the old Church, and on to the Revolution.

VI.—The struggles and triumphs of the Church during the last two hundred years, wherein it has tried to meet the great demands made upon its resources, and presented to the world a glorious front.

Throughout all these periods, some 1,800 years in all, we are able to trace the Apostolic form of Church government in England, by the three Orders of bishops, priests, and deacons, claiming descent from the primitive Church; and we can also perceive with equal clearness a similar antiquity and continuity of doctrine, by means of liturgies in constant use. Only in minor points of discipline and ceremonial has the Church in Britain materially differed from the rest of Christendom, such differences being caused by varying needs, consequent upon the civil changes the land has passed through when new races of men found a home on these shores, and changed the condition and character of the inhabitants.

Those who are led by the perusal of the following pages to desire more detailed information of any circumstances or persons, can obtain it by consulting such books as are referred